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Christopher to visit region at end of month to push Syrian talks

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher is planning to come to the region either at the end of this month or the start of December to advance Israel-Syrian talks as planned, said a US official, denying suggestions by Foreign Minister Peres yesterday that Washington wants to press Damascus by delaying the visit.

Furthermore, the source hinted that Peres's statement yesterday may be deliberately designed to deflect attention away from the fact that Jerusalem, not just Damascus, must offer new substantive concessions to move forward the Israel-Syrian negotiations.

In an interview with the Associated Press yesterday, Peres declared: "The problem is the Syrians. They are so slow."

The US official denied Peres's claim that Christopher has indefinitely delayed his visit. "The trip is timed to take place either as planned around November 27th, or perhaps at most a week

DAVID MAKOVSKY

later," he said. Apart from being wrong about the date, Peres is wrong about Christopher's motive, he said. "The foreign minister is off on the wrong track. It is not an accurate read of the situation," he said.

In his interview with AP, Peres declared that Syria could have gotten all of the Golan Heights if it would have made peace with Israel when Egypt did 15 years ago.

"They could have made peace at the same as President Sadat did, and they would have gotten the same thing that the Egyptians got at the time," Peres said. "The whole story would be different. It would have saved money and lives and troubles and wars."

In private conversations, Peres has called for progress on the peace process by moving "one front at a time."

With Peres known to be a major

advocate in pressing Palestinian talks on expanding autonomy forward, and some officials in the Foreign Ministry suggest this is more likely to occur if Israel is not preoccupied with the Syrian track, Peres's remarks bolster speculation that he may be trying to put the Syrian track on hold for now.

But Peres insisted he is not shutting the door on the Syrian track. In the AP interview, he rejected the idea that talks with the Syrians should be cut off or delayed until after Israel's next scheduled elections in November 1996.

"As long as we can negotiate, let's negotiate. Maybe we'll have an unexpected breakthrough," he said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin leaves for the US today. Officials say he wants to make sure that the Republican congressional victory last week does not jeopardize the US commitment to major security assistance for Israel should it withdraw from the Golan.



Islamic Jihad activists wear white masks and robes during a demonstration near the home of Hisham Hamad yesterday. (Reuters)

Peres to Klestil: Austria should provide reparations

DAVID MAKOVSKY

AUSTRIA should provide reparations to Austrian Jewish victims of the Holocaust, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres urged visiting Austrian President Thomas Klestil yesterday.

A communique issued by the Foreign Ministry after a meeting between the two yesterday said Peres had raised the subject with Klestil.

"It was agreed the problem would be examined by both sides," the statement said. A senior Israeli official said Austria intends to pay reparations, but it wants to establish criteria for receiving the compensation before it makes any formal announcement.

The official said the issue has been discussed in the Austrian parliament, but "it has been going slowly. We thought that Peres raising the issue would have a favorable effect."

Unlike Germany, Austria never paid reparations to its Jews, having always claimed that it, too, was a victim of Nazi aggression. In the past year, however, Vienna has started admitting that it shares responsibility for the persecution of Jews.

Klestil will not meet with Palestinian leaders at Orient House in eastern Jerusalem, nor was such a meeting on his schedule, a senior Foreign Ministry official said.

Following last week's controversy over the visit to Orient House by Turkish Prime Minister Tancu Ciller, Austrian officials apparently decided such a visit would be ill-advised, the official said. Therefore, they decided last

week to hold today's meeting with the Palestinians at the Austrian Hospice in Jerusalem's Old City.

Klestil also has no plans to meet PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat on this trip, apparently according to a request by President Ezer Weizman not to do, officials said.

During a visit yesterday to Ben-Gurion University's Desert Research Institute in Sede Boker, however, Klestil denied a report that Weizman had pressured him not to meet with Arafat.

He said that although he had considered meeting with Arafat during this trip, "because I am here on an official visit, as the first Austrian president to visit Israel, I decided to accept the itinerary arranged for me. Since this schedule does not allow me to meet with Arafat, I am sure that we will have other opportunities."

In a meeting yesterday with Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock, Israeli participants quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin as saying: "It is a mistake not to meet Arafat. It was right to begin dialogue with Arafat in 1988. Certainly now, this dialogue should be strengthened and not weakened. We need to strengthen him and his pragmatic camp, and press him to confront the radicals."

In the Mock-Beilin meeting, the Austrian diplomat reported incremental progress in getting Iran to relate to the problem of the missing Israeli soldiers, though it has not provided any new information.

Teheran has denied knowing anything about their whereabouts, but recently Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati told Mock he would look into the issue, Mock said.

In the meeting between Klestil and Peres, the Austrian leader asked Peres whether Israel intended to engage in a dialogue with Islamic militants such as Hamas.

Peres replied, "so long as Hamas talks to us with rifles and bombs, we have no reason to speak to them. It is impossible to have a dialogue with Hamas at the very time they are waging a war against us."

In the morning, Klestil also toured Bethlehem, where he was the guest of Mayor Elias Freij, who holds the tourism portfolio in the Palestinian Authority. He visited the Church of the Nativity.

During his visit to Sede Boker, Klestil expressed interest in his government cooperating with the university on research projects.

"Austria has no deserts, but a great deal of our land is rocky and very hard to cultivate. So I understand the importance of the work being done here," he said.

He added that since the research being done here could help Israel's neighbors, assisting it would strengthen the peace process.

The Austrian president also visited the graves of David and Paula Ben-Gurion, and received a summary of plans for development of the Negev from BGU president Dr. Avishai Braverman.

Amir Rozenblit and Ilan contributed to this report.

PA police force blocks Islamic Jihad mock funeral

Jihad activists demonstrate near bomber's home

JON IMMANUEL

HUNDREDS of club-wielding Gaza police, standing between Islamic Jihad demonstrators and the cemetery in Gaza City, prevented the symbolic funeral planned for suicide bomber Hisham Hamad yesterday.

The show of force, however, did not prevent a demonstration by several hundred Islamic Jihad activists near the bicycle bomber's house in the Sheikh Radwan neighborhood.

There was no shooting or public display of weapons as in Friday's demonstration, but many wore masks and read out death threats to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"Rabin be patient, the Jihad is digging your grave," and "Ya Arafat, the Jihad killed [Egyptian president Anwar] Sadat, and the Jihad has not died," were among the threats.

Brig. Ghazi Jabali, the Gaza police chief, issued a statement ordering that no demonstrations be held without a permit from the local police commander.

Police arrested 20 more Islamic Jihad members during the night, bringing to 180 the number detained since the suicide bombing

near the Netzarim junction on Friday.

Arafat is under strong pressure from Israel to rein in the Islamic militants who oppose the Israel-PLO autonomy accord and are committed to Israel's destruction.

Palestinian Justice Minister Freih Abu Meidin said the militants must be brought under control if the peace agreement is to survive.

If the radicals are left to operate freely, "this means that there are two authorities, and that means that everything will collapse, the peace process and the economic situation," Abu Meidin told Army Radio.

But Rabin said he is not satisfied with the PA's handling of the battle against terrorism.

"I realize they have arrested 140 people apparently connected with Islamic Jihad," he said. "I will judge by the results, and by their ability to prevent terrorism both inside and outside of Gaza, to what measure this fulfills our expectations."

Meanwhile statements by Palestinian law enforcement officials have cast doubt on whether Abdullah Shami, the most prominent Jihad leader, had been arrested,

as was reported Sunday. His wife told Israel Radio that he called her from a hiding place, and police said they are seeking his arrest and have arrested two of his relatives.

Today, Palestinians celebrate their "independence day," the sixth anniversary of Arafat's declaration of a Palestinian state in Algiers in 1988.

Official ceremonies will take place in Gaza's Yarmuk Stadium and in Abu Dis near Jerusalem.

A PLO executive committee meeting, minus half its 18 members, is scheduled to take place in Gaza this evening to mark the occasion. It will be the first on Palestinian territory since 1967.

Arafat's decision to hold the meeting was attacked by Farouk Kaddoumi, the PLO political bureau chief in Tunis, who called it "premature" since Gaza was not an independent state. But it was praised by Samir Ghoshe, PA labor minister.

The meeting will take place even though, according to PLO regulations, the committee cannot hold an official meeting without a quorum of 12. Nine members reside in the territories and nine abroad, including Abu Mazen (Mahmoud Abbas), who may arrive for the meeting.

The committee, which made the decision to accept the Oslo Accords, will likely discuss recent political events, including Arafat's recent meeting with Rabin and plans to mend fences with King Hussein of Jordan.

Tayeb Abdel Raheem, director of Arafat's office, issued a statement saying that Arafat called Hussein yesterday to deliver birthday greetings, and said he would like to visit Amman to discuss several issues. Hussein's response was not given.

Relations between Arafat and Hussein were strained by Hussein's claims to the custodianship of Moslem holy sites in Jerusalem. However, Arafat - in a statement by his spokesman Nabil Abu Irdeineh to AFP on Sunday - for the first time praised Hussein's commitment to hand over custodianship if and when Palestinians win sovereignty in Jerusalem.

In a related development, the Fatah higher committee, meeting in Ramallah, decided elections for the local Fatah leadership in Jerusalem will be held on Saturday.

It was also decided the election in Tulkarim would take place on Friday, and in the rest of Judea and Samaria after "technical difficulties" are overcome.

Government defeats two no-confidence bids

EVELYN GORDON

THE government defeated the Likud's no-confidence motion on poverty yesterday, by a vote of 58-53 with one abstention, after Shas broke with its usual policy and voted with the opposition. Yitad, however, voted with the government.

A motion of non-confidence on the negotiations with Syria, by Tsomet and the National Religious Party, was defeated by a more comfortable 59-48, with five abstentions, since Shas abstained. Shas leader Aryeh Deri said the party would refrain from voting no-confidence on political matters as long as the government continues to protect the religious status quo.

Shas' vote on the poverty issue was a result of the government's failure to do enough to help large families, who are slowly sliding into poverty, Deri said. He demanded the government provide discounts on housing and public transportation and free preschooling for such families.

"We are the smallest nation in the world, surrounded by enemies... shouldn't our goal be to encourage births?" he asked. "Young couples shouldn't have to calculate whether [they can afford] to bring another child into the world."

However, he said, Shas did not

consider the current government any worse than its predecessors, and it voted against it only to show how seriously it takes the issue.

"Our goal is not to topple the government," he stressed. "If we thought our vote would bring down the government, perhaps we would have decided differently."

The Arab parties said that while they are also extremely concerned with the issue of poverty - the percentage of Arabs living below the poverty line is much higher than that of Jews - they would support the government as long as it continued with the peace process. Thus, only one Arab MK, Taleb A-Sana'a (Democratic Arab Party), abstained.

DAP leader Abdel Wahab Darawshe also insisted that, at a meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin yesterday morning, the latter had expressed willingness to solve some of the problems the Arabs consider pressing, such as official recognition for more Arab villages.

However, he said, Rabin did not agree to add anything to the proposed budget for the Arab sector, saying it already contained a significant increase over last year.

David Levy (Likud), who presented the no-confidence motion on poverty, charged that despite the government's promises to make social justice a top priority, its policies are increasing poverty - for instance, by encouraging rampant inflation. The government is also diverting money to the Palestinian Authority instead of helping the needy in Israel, he said.



Peres: I'm not afraid of Assad. What really worries me is fundamentalism. That's the real danger.

"If 800,000 children living under the poverty line don't move this government - doesn't even bring the prime minister [to the debate] - what will move it?" he demanded, scoring Rabin's absence from the hall.

In response, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir charged that the government has already done much to fight poverty - both by reducing unemploy-

ment and by measures such as doubling the education budget over the past three years - and that it would continue to do more. Namir said she would soon present a NIS 161 million plan to raise another 11,340 families above the poverty line.

Namir also blamed much of the problem on the previous Likud governments. Between 1988 and 1992, she said, poverty rose by an average of 9 percent year. Last year, it increased only 5.1%.

Rafael Eitan (Tsomet), who presented the vote of no-confidence on Syria, based himself on the remarks of a senior IDF intelligence officer who last week told the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that President Hafez Assad does not keep his promises. He also attacked the several government ministers who have called for dismantling Netzarim in light of last Friday's terror attack.

Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman Ori Orr (Labor), who spoke later in the debate, insisted that all the intelligence officer really said was that Assad is merely a leader like any other. He keeps his agreements as long as he is afraid of the penalty for violating them, and as long as it is in his interest to do so.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who responded for the government, stressed the importance of negotiating with Syria. "I'm not afraid of Assad," he said. "What really worries me is fundamentalism. That's the real danger."

Peres also strongly supported dismantling Netzarim.

"What is the logic in maintaining 20 or 30 families in the heart of an Arab settlement?" he demanded.

Unemployment up 2.5%

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE number of jobless grew by 2.5 percent last month after adjustment for seasonal factors, the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry announced yesterday.

The raw data shows that 112,900 people turned to the Employment Service for jobs in October, compared with 91,900 in September. An increase of 20,900 job-seekers represented a rise in unemployment of 22.8%; however, when considering seasonal factors, including the September holidays, the ministry set the real number of jobless at 105,200, or a 2.5% increase.

The number of job-seekers who were not academics or welfare recipients was set at 68,400, compared with 66,900 in September, a 2.3% increase.

Some 15,200 academics were unemployed last month, compared with 14,900 in September.

The ministry reported that 11,000 new immigrants were job-seekers in October, up from 8,600 in September. The percentage of new immigrants among job-seekers increased to 9.7% from 9.3%.

The areas with the highest unemployment are the Western Negev, 8.3%, and the Eastern Negev, 7.8%. The lowest jobless rate is in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Eilat, 1.6%, 1.8%, and 1.3% respectively.

Sanctions against Iraq not lifted

UNITED NATIONS (AP) - The Security Council refused yesterday to lift economic sanctions on Iraq, and US officials attacked Iraqi claims of hardship by showing pictures of new palaces built by Saddam Hussein.

The 15-nation council rejected Iraq's claim that it has met conditions to lift a crippling oil embargo and other sanctions imposed after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, said US Ambassador Madeleine Albright.

ISRAEL-CANADA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
A luncheon in honor of
Lyn McLeod
Leader of the Liberal Party in Ontario
will take place on Thursday, November 17, 1994, at 1:30 p.m.
at the Sheraton Hotel, 115 Hayarkon St., Tel Aviv
The luncheon is sponsored by
The Israel Discount Bank Ltd.
Those wishing to attend should contact the
Israel-Canada Chamber of Commerce at Tel. 03-202544, or Fax. 03-202513

Sarid: 'Ma'aleh Adumim will stay in place'

HERB KEINON

THE growth and development taking place in Ma'aleh Adumim, the largest settlement in the territories with some 20,000 people, "does not break my heart," Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said after a visit there yesterday.

Sarid, on his first visit to the town in his job as Environment Minister, said he envisions three types of settlements after a final agreement is reached with the Palestinians.

"The first type are those that will have to be uprooted, that will be unable to stay where they are," Sarid said. "The second are those [whose residents] will be moved to blocks of settlements, and the third are those that will remain where they are."

Sarid said he envisions Ma'aleh Adumim as staying where it is, and serving as the central settlement in one of two settlement blocks.

He would not say which settlements will have to be uprooted, or define the parameters of the settlement blocks he has in mind.

Ma'aleh Adumim Mayor Benny Kashriel said after the visit that although he was disappointed by Sarid's statements regarding other settlements in Judea and Samaria, he was encouraged by his remarks on Ma'aleh Adumim.

"Three years ago when I spoke to Sarid, he said that in his mind Ma'aleh Adumim is occupied territories like all the rest," Kashriel said. "We wanted to bring him the numbers and quality of people out here. We wanted him to see that we are not talking about Kach members or extremists, but rather people who came to live here for a better quality of life, not for ideology."



Ma'aleh Adumim Mayor Benny Kashriel hosts Environment Minister Yossi Sarid during his first tour of the town.

(Bruno Sharvit)

ideology."

During the visit, Sarid denied he had refused to come to the settlement earlier in his tenure because of political reasons. "I am simply unable to go everywhere," he said.

Also yesterday, Sarid agreed to set up an environmental protection unit in Ma'aleh Adumim, and to clean up the road leading from Ma'aleh Adumim to Jerusalem, since this will be the road tourists coming from Jordan will be travel-

ing on their way to the capital.

Responding to Sarid's statements about uprooting settlements, the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza issued a statement that read, "Sarid, who is preaching

about the transfer of Jews as surrender to terror, brings the terror to the heart of the country. And in an attempt to prepare the way for transfer of Jews, Sarid is leading to the possibility of the transfer of Arabs."

Palestinian Police close Route 90 at Ouja

HERB KEINON

THE JORDAN Valley Settlements' Committee warned yesterday that settlers in the region would have to take "unequivocal

action" if Palestinian Police at Ouja prevent Israelis from using Route 90 through that village, as they did Sunday night.

Committee head David El-bayani said in a letter to the IDF liaison officer in the Jericho area that the Palestinian Police placed roadblocks at the southern entrance to Ouja in retaliation for IDF roadblocks, set up the night before between Ouja and Yotvat, a few kilometers to the east.

Palestinian policemen, he said, kept Israeli vehicles from passing through Ouja, which is on the main road from Jerusalem to Tiberias. Settlers in the area said the IDF roadblock was erected after shots were heard near the Jericho bypass road.

Miri Ben-Ari, a resident of Tomer, said she was driving home from work at 6 p.m. when she approached Ouja, and a Palestinian policeman told her she couldn't go through. An altercation developed when IDF soldiers from a nearby roadblock came to see what was happening.

An IDF reaction was unobtainable.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

A number of events took place yesterday within the framework of the meeting of the Weizmann Institute's Board of Governors. These included the opening of the refurbished laboratory of Dr. Chaim Weizmann, made possible through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. M.D. Moros, the inauguration of the Sussman Family Center for the Study of Environmental Sciences established by S. Donald Sussman, and the conferment of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, Honoris Causa, upon Y. Leon Benozio, Switzerland, Samy Colin, Brazil, Eli Hurwitz, Israel, Simone Malah, Argentina, Rowland Schaefer, USA, Dr. Alejandro Zaffaroni, USA and H.E. Ezer Weizman, President of the State of Israel. President Weizman delivered the keynote address.

Hoffi: Link Golan withdrawal to Syrian force reduction

ALON PINKAS

THE government's policy of linking the depth of withdrawal from the Golan to the nature of the peace Syria is offering misses the point, according to former Mossad chief Yitzhak Hoffi.

Instead, withdrawal should be tied to security elements, along the lines of the following formula: "The depth of withdrawal equals the size of Syria's reduction in military forces." Hoffi told a symposium on "Israel-Syria Relations: Toward a New Era?" yesterday.

The symposium was sponsored by Bar-Ilan University's BESA Center for Strategic Studies and the Tel Aviv area Center of Information of the Ministry of Education.

Hoffi said that demilitarization and foreign forces cannot be relied on as adequate security arrangements and that Israel must be alert to the possibility of a Syrian surprise attack, unless the Syrian armed forces, especially its armored divisions, are seriously reduced.

Dr. Dore Gold, of Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, argued that neither Israel nor the US currently intends to station US troops on the Golan, although the dynamics of the negotiating process may compel them to consider the option.

Prof. Amos Perlmutter, of American University in Washington DC, said the autocratic regime of Syrian President Hafez Assad is a characteristically corrupt, relying on the secret police, which also renders it volatile. He estimated it may also resemble its former Soviet and East European mentors in collapsing sooner rather than later.

"Therefore, Israel must insist on long-range and gradual agreements, as the regime may fall and time will be required to assess the new situation in Syria," Perlmutter said.

Syria specialist and Assad biographer Prof. Moshe Maoz said the Syrian president realized the need for political accommodation as early as 1970, when he took power.

"He maintained a viable military option all along, and until 1988 opted for attaining strategic parity with Israel. But with the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Assad underwent a strategic, rather than an ideological, transformation, realizing that strategic parity is unattainable, partly because of Israel's reported nuclear capabilities, and embarked on the peace process."

"Since 1992, I can detect in Syria a willingness to reach a peace agreement with Israel, based on the Egyptian model," Maoz said.

Families of missing soldiers hope Klestil will be key to finding sons

BAT SHEVA TSUR

FAMILIES of the Israeli soldiers missing in action in Lebanon said last night that Austrian President Thomas Klestil might well be the person who helps them locate the whereabouts of their loved ones.

"Dr. Klestil has excellent ties with Iran and Syria and he could be the man to help us solve the problem," Yona Baumei, father of MIA Zacharya Baumei said last night. He was speaking to reporters after the Austrian president met with members of families of the five men

who have been missing since 1982. Klestil also held a separate meeting with members of the family of navigator Ron Arad, before hosting a reception at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem.

Baumei said that Klestil had begun working on the issue already when he was deputy foreign minister and had continued over the years, holding several meetings with the MIAs' families.

"We have the utmost confidence in his integrity. He has proven to be instrumental, a good friend and a superb diplomat," Baumei said, adding that the Austrian head of state had worked discreetly behind the scenes.

Asked whether there was a possibility of a prisoner exchange in which the MIAs would be involved, Baumei said: "No comment."

See earlier story page 12

Vote delayed on bill to bring Yi'ud into gov't

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset yesterday failed to vote on a bill to enable Yi'ud to join the government, after Tsomet and the NRP asked at the last minute to turn the vote into a no-confidence vote. This postpones the vote to next Monday.

Yitzhak Levy (NRP) said the move was aimed at delaying the bill as long as possible. Though some coalition MKs strenuously objected to the bill, he explained, they would not be enough to defeat it.

The amendment to the Basic Law: The Government states that members of factions who split in two - unlike individual MKs who leave their party - may be appointed ministers or deputy ministers. It was proposed by Eli Dayan and Salih Tarif (Labor) after the High

Court of Justice ruled this summer that even members of breakaway factions could not join the government.

Dayan and Law Committee chairman Dedi Zucker (Meretz) both stressed that the amendment was meant to restore the meaning MKs from all parties originally intended to give the law. The court had misinterpreted the Knesset's intention only because the law was poorly worded, Zucker said.

"All members of the Law Committee agreed that we need to preserve the distinction between breakaway MKs and breakaway factions," he said.

However, even some coalition

members objected fiercely to the change.

"I am vigorously opposed to this law, and there is no way I will vote for it," said Yoram Lass (Labor). "This law gives an incentive to breaking away in return for a [cabinet] seat."

All previous legislation, he said, has been aimed at creating disincentives for such actions.

"Yi'ud's act, to which we are partners, is kosher, but it stinks," agreed Avi Yehzekel (Labor).

However, Yehzekel said he would vote for the bill anyway, for the sake of strengthening the coalition and advancing the peace process - particularly in light of Shas' vote of no-confidence in the government earlier in the evening.

10 percent more Jews in territories; rate of increase dropping

THE number of Jews in the territories grew by 10 percent to 116,000 in 1993, despite a shift away from government support for settlements, the Central Bureau of Statistics has reported.

But Chief Statistician Yosef Yahav said the rate of growth declined in comparison with that of previous years.

"The growth was around 10%," Yahav told reporters. "The rate of growth has fallen off from 15% or 12% in recent years."

The figure includes both births and migration, but excludes east Jerusalem.

The bureau's statistical abstract, released on Sunday,

showed 13,800 Jews moved to the territories in 1993, down from 14,000 in 1992. A total of 6,800 settlers left Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, up from 6,400 in 1992.

Partial figures were not yet available for 1994.

Within Israel, Moslems continued to grow at a faster pace than Jews, 3.6% opposed to 2.2%.

Immigrants from the former Soviet Union now comprise the single largest group in the country, totaling 712,000. Jews of Moroccan descent are the second largest, about half a million.

At the end of 1993, Israel's population totaled 5.44 million, including 4.4 million Jews and 770,000 Moslems. (Renter)

PA takes control of social welfare and tourism in Judea and Samaria today

JON IMMANUEL

THE civil administration in Judea and Samaria today hands control over social welfare and tourism to the Palestinian Authority, part of the implementation of "early empowerment."

By the end of the month, the Palestinians are also to assume responsibility for health care and taxation. Control over education was transferred to the Palestinians on August 29.

Although senior administrative positions in all these departments will be filled by Palestinians, close cooperation with Israeli authorities is expected to continue, especially in health care and taxation.

"In the complex area of taxation, the civil administration will continue to train Palestinians for six months. In the health sector, it will work with the Palestinians for three months," a spokesman for the civil administration said.

Unlike the educational system, which was already basically autonomous, Palestinian health services are still closely linked with the Israeli health system. Palestinians are frequently referred to Israeli hospitals for chronic or serious ailments, and cooperation in the control of infectious diseases will continue to be necessary, as the recent cholera outbreak in Gaza demonstrates.

Taxation presents its own special problems, because most Palestinian tax officials resigned during the intifada. Establishing an effective tax structure and collection system has proved to be one of the most difficult problems for the Palestinian Authority.

The PA Finance Ministry yesterday published announcements in the *Al Quds* and *Al-Nahar* newspapers, asking residents to pay their taxes, and noting that tax collectors would begin visiting homes in the areas, starting with Jericho. In Gaza, tax collection has already begun.

The announcement asked for a change in "the antagonistic relationship between the taxpayer and tax department, now that we are entering a new era."

The health system to be transferred includes 2,000 workers, including 350 doctors and 885 nurses, eight hospitals with 1,000 beds and 207 clinics, four laboratories, and six blood banks. There are also

nursing schools in Nablis and Ramallah. The budget for the system is around NIS 90 million a year.

The tax department has 52 Palestinian workers, of whom only nine are income tax specialists. In addition to the manpower shortage, the Palestinians must take over a complex computerized system, whose software is all in Hebrew and must be converted to Arabic.

Tax workers now being signed up by the Palestinian Authority will be given special courses on how to operate the system, which includes files on 50,000 taxpayers generating NIS 140m. a year. The Palestinians will collect value added tax. Responsibility for collecting customs duties is still to be negotiated.

Even after the transfer of these fields to Palestinian control, 29 departments, including housing, roads, and agriculture, will remain under the jurisdiction of the civil administration.

The transfer of authority for welfare and tourism will be more straightforward. About 200 workers are employed, dealing with 42,000 Palestinian welfare recipients in 16 regional and sub-regional offices. Control of all the offices will be transferred today, except for the Hebron office, which was handed over on Sunday.

Tourism is centered in Bethlehem and Jericho, where tourism is already in the hands of the Palestinian Authority. An office in Bethlehem will be transferred today.

But PA Tourism Minister Elias Freij, who is also Bethlehem's mayor, says he plans to ask for permission to build Palestinian-run hotels in Jerusalem, the biggest draw for tourists and where most tourists stay, as they make one-day visits to Bethlehem or Jericho.

"We want equality of treatment, and if Israelis can build hotels in east Jerusalem, so can we," he said.

Tourism is may prove to be the most important field for the Palestinians in the long run. The construction and operation of tourist facilities could provide thousands of jobs and generate substantial income.

Freij expects tourism to the area to double by the end of the decade, adding he is committed to "full coordination between Israel, Palestine, and Jordan."

New OC Northern Command's appointment delayed

ALON PINKAS

THE appointment of a new OC Northern Command is being delayed, with Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine's candidacy having been put into question for medical reasons, according to an army source.

Current OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai has scheduled a farewell party later this week, and the appointment of a replacement is the central topic on the appointments agenda.

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak made it abundantly clear that his preferred candidate is Levine, a former commander of Sayeret Matkal. But Levine had a heart bypass operation last month, and army sources say that while he is currently in perfect health, it has nevertheless become an issue affecting the decision.

In addition, Maj.-Gen. Amnon Shabak, who is to replace Barak next year, has privately expressed reservations about Levine's appointment. A source close to Shabak privately denied that he has any problems with Levine, saying that ultimately he would welcome the appointment.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arab League: Boycott continues

Arab League Secretary-General Ismat Abdel Maguid announced the League would not lift the Arab boycott until Israel withdraws from all occupied territories and adheres to all UN resolutions. Israel Radio reported yesterday. The Arab League is the only body empowered to abolish the 48 year-old boycott.

First Arab named to Jerusalem District Court
Dr. Awni Habash has been appointed to the Jerusalem District Court, the first Arab to be so named.

The Living Testify

Edited by Moshe Davis and Meir Hovav

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The French Friends of Tel Aviv University

mourn together with

Yehiel Ben-Zvi

Vice President of the University
on the passing of his beloved wife

YARDENA

In deep sorrow we announce the death of our beloved

HANS PLAUT ז"ל

President of B'nai Brith Lodge Leo Baeck, Nahariya

Mourned by:

His wife, Chava Plaut

His son, Gad and Yardena Plaut

His daughter, Ester and Renato Fink

His granddaughters, Ayelet and Tamar Plaut

The deceased bequeathed his body to science.

With great sorrow we announce the passing of
our beloved father, father-in-law, grandfather
and great-grandfather

MARTIN TAUBER

The funeral will take place today,
Tuesday, November 15, 1994 at 11 a.m.
at the Kiryat Shaul Cemetery, Tel Aviv

Yvonne Tauber
34 Hartap St.
Jerusalem

Liliane Richler and family
79a Einstein St.
Haifa

In deep sorrow we announce the passing of
our beloved

Colonel (Res.) REUVEN CARY

For funeral details please contact: 04-247757, 08-475888
from noon.

His wife: Mady Cary
The Cary and Gelber families.

Two killed in accident blamed on weather

DAVID RUDGE

TWO people were killed and two others were injured in a head-on collision between a van and a bus in bad weather conditions on the Rosh Pina-Safed Road early yesterday morning.

The accident prompted police to reiterate warnings to motorists to be extra careful on wet, slippery roads, especially in view of the forecast for heavy rain and thunderstorms today and tomorrow.

The two casualties were van driver Yehuda Tweeto, 46, and passenger Eli Deri, 44, both from Safed.

Another passenger in the van, 49-year-old David Vanunu, also of Safed, suffered serious injuries and was taken to the city's government hospital in critical condition. The bus driver escaped with light injuries.

Police said the van was traveling down the steep and winding road from Safed when the vehicle went out of control, apparently because of the weather conditions, and veered directly into the path of the oncoming bus.

The van was crushed on impact, and Tweeto and Deri were killed instantly.

Firemen and Magen David Adom ambulance crews, who were sent from Safed, Hatzor, and Kiryat Shmona, battled to release the bodies and rescue the injured passenger from the wreckage. The road was closed for three hours as the rescue work went ahead. Motorists caught in the traffic jam walked to the scene of the accident and in the process impeded the efforts of the rescue teams.

All three men from the van were civilian employees of the IDF and were well known in the area.

The wintry weather, that was apparently partly to blame for the accident, is expected to worsen today. Meteorologists said heavy rain, strong gusts of wind, and a marked drop in temperatures were likely along with a chance of flooding in low-lying areas and even snow on Mt. Hermon. The stormy conditions are expected to die out by Thursday.

Comoros holds up establishment of ties with Israel

PARIS (Reuters) - The Comoros Islands, an Islamic republic in the Indian Ocean and a member of the Arab League, said on Sunday it was suspending indefinitely a decision taken just days ago to establish full diplomatic ties with Israel.

"Normalization will occur only after a settlement of questions at the heart of the Middle East conflict," the republic said in a statement issued in Paris.

"This is why President Said Mohamed Djohar has decided that the agreement undertaken on November 10 between the federal Republic of Comoros and Israel will have to await such progress before taking effect," the statement said.

The statement said that normalization should be put off until peace agreements have been reached with Syria and Lebanon in exchange for the return of their occupied territories and a solution has been reached on the future status of Jerusalem that is acceptable to the Palestinians.

The two nations had agreed to diplomatic ties at a formal signing ceremony last Thursday in Paris.

President Djohar himself signed the agreement for Comoros while Ambassador to France Yehuda Lancry signed on behalf of Israel.

The republic, a former French colony, had no previous ties with Israel.



Some 300 Christian pilgrims arrive at the Western Wall Plaza yesterday after marching from the Cardo to demonstrate their support for "keeping Jerusalem with the Jewish people." The group was organized by Rev. John Hagee, a television evangelist based in Texas whose efforts on behalf of Israel have been recognized by such groups as Hadassah, the ZOA and the ADL.

Clalit decision to close Soroka labs stirs furor

AMIR ROZENBLIT

KUPAT Holim Clalit's decision to close the research laboratories at Soroka Hospital in Beersheba has led to an urgent motion for the Knesset agenda by MK Pini Badash (Tsomet), who is also head of the Omer local council.

"The firing of 40 workers from the labs and 22 lecturers at the Faculty of Medicine at Ben-Gurion University will severely damage the hospital and those it serves," Badash said in his motion. "This situation stands in contradiction to the government's avowed policy of developing the Negev."

Representatives of the workers, who are organizing to combat the decision, have recently sent telegrams to dozens of MKs and other public figures urging them to work to overturn the decision, which they said will turn Soroka in a hospital "on the level of the Third World."

Judy Siegel adds: Clalit spokesman David Tagar yesterday denied claims by the union of biochemists and

microbiologists that the health fund "has no interest in or ability to" continue carrying out medical research.

Union head Asher Goldschlager claimed that Clalit director-general Avigdor Kaplan wants to get rid of research. But Tagar said research would continue in Clalit hospitals and clinics. "It's too early to say how much money this will entail, as our financial situation under national health insurance is not yet clear, but we definitely intend to continue."

Consumer group to insist phone-info services be connected only on request

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Israel Consumer Council objects to the Communications Ministry's proposal to give all Bezeq subscribers automatic access to the new 057 phone information service, instead of requiring that they ask to be hooked up.

Council head Esther Geller Saban said the council would oppose the ministry's proposal, which is to be discussed by the Knesset Economics Committee today.

Under the ministry proposal, suggested by Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni, the existing 056 information lines - dubbed the "entertainment services" line by the ministry - will be available only to subscribers who

request it. But the 057 lines, through which callers can get information about the stock market, weather, medicine, and other topics, will automatically be reachable from any phone, unless the subscriber has already asked to be disconnected from the 056 service or specifically requests that 057 service be suspended.

The 056 lines, were originally established to provide legitimate information, from dietary advice to Talmud lessons, over the phone. But the high prices charged callers quickly reduced the attractiveness of such services,

and it deteriorated mainly into pornography-by-phone.

Thousands of Bezeq subscribers billed for 056 calls claimed they had never made them; often these bills were run up by children, guests, or workmen.

Asked to comment, ministry spokesman Gustavo Treiber said that "we don't want to lock everything in this country up. In our experience, no one has misused phone privileges to make calls to know about weather or receive other legitimate information."

He added that if the committee approves the proposal, 057 services could begin in a few weeks.

Hizbullah: Collaborators must repent or die

DAVID RUDGE

HIZBULLAH leaders have warned SLA "collaborators" to either "repent or be killed."

The message was contained in speeches by Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah and his deputy, Sheikh Naim Kassem, at a rally in Beirut that were published in Lebanese newspapers yesterday.

"Do you think that the Zionist enemy will leave behind guards to protect you? Even if the Lebanese state forgives you, the families of the martyrs will not," Kassem was quoted as saying.

The two harshly condemned the Lebanese government's decision to open an investigation into the 1983 suicide bomb attacks in Beirut in which 241 US Marines and 58 French troops were killed.

Meanwhile, Israeli Radio reported that two Hizbullah gunmen were killed in clashes or in exchanges of fire with IDF forces in the eastern sector of southern Lebanon. The exchanges occurred after the Hizbullah fired at an Israeli tank. Later, IAF planes bombed Hizbullah targets. Hizbullah gunmen also fired mortars and Sagger missiles at the Beit Yehon crossing point manned by SLA troops, but failed to inflict any casualties.

Despite Hizbullah's offensive against the SLA, its commander, Gen. Antoine Lahad, said his force is in good shape.

He spoke at a farewell ceremony in Marjayoun on Sunday for OC Northern Command Maj. Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai, who met with senior SLA officers, soldiers, and local residents prior to leaving his post.

Earlier, SLA's deputy commander Col. Akel Hashem had warned that the SLA is in danger of breaking up unless the Israel gives assurances that the IDF would remain in the region.

Lahad, however, told reporters after the ceremony that the SLA is in no danger of disintegrating.

Shoval: US will maintain military aid

HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON

THE US agreed two years ago to maintain its level of military assistance to Jerusalem, former ambassador to Washington Zalman Shoval said here yesterday.

Shoval also told reporters here that once the Likud regains power, which he predicted would come in the next election, it intends to reopen negotiations with the PLO on security arrangements.

Shoval, the Likud party's foreign affairs spokesman, is in Washington this week for meetings with administration officials

and Republican members of Congress.

The military assistance agreement he concluded with then-secretary of state Laurence Eagleburger came just before the Bush administration left office in January 1993, and just prior to his own replacement as ambassador here.

The understanding, Shoval said, "maybe is not binding legal-

ly, but certainly is binding politically and morally."

Israel receives \$1.8 billion annually in military aid and \$1.2 in economic assistance.

The matter of Israel's foreign aid package has arisen following last week's elections that has catapulted the Republicans to power in both houses. On Thursday, the incoming chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Jesse Helms, attacked US foreign aid programs and said up to \$100 billion had been spent to encourage Middle East peace.

KNESSET BRIEFS

Scholarship criteria changing

The Education Ministry will try to change criteria for scholarships so that ability to pay plays a greater role than place of residence, a ministry representative promised the State Control Committee yesterday. Committee chairman David Magen (Likud) had raised the issue, charging that well-off students from bad neighborhoods were eligible for scholarships while poor children who lived in slightly better neighborhoods were not.

Meeting halted over gov't waffling

Interior Committee chairman Yehoshua Matza (Likud) yesterday adjourned his committee meeting in disgust after various government representatives were unable to tell the committee

who was in charge of dealing with the problem of storing and transporting materials. Matza said the various government representatives also contradicted each other as to what had been done so far to deal with the problem.

Hefetz asked for Traffic Police report

The Knesset State Control Committee asked Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz to prepare a report within a month on what it is doing to improve the efficiency of the Traffic Police, following the comptroller's critical report on the subject. The report noted, for example, that only 36% of all tickets issued were for the 12 serious violations which cause some 56% of traffic accidents, while 40% were for minor violations which cause only 0.2% of accidents. Evelyn Gordon

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel, Kazakhstan initial aviation accord

The heads of Israel's and Kazakhstan's civil aviation authorities have initiated an aviation agreement, according to which El Al and Kazakhstan Airlines will each fly a weekly flight between the two countries. The Kazakh airline is also to have special flights bringing olim to Israel. Until now, a Kazakh company had a weekly charter flight to Israel.

Deri to get a new lawyer

A new defense lawyer appeared for the first time in yesterday's session of the ongoing trial of former interior minister Aryeh Deri on fraud, bribery, and breach of trust charges in Jerusalem District Court. Navot Tel-Tzur is to replace Dan Avi-Yitzhak, who was not in court.

Avi-Yitzhak, however, will handle the cross-examination of Plia Albeck, who formerly handled civil matters for the State Attorney's Office, which at the request of the defense, will begin tomorrow. Yesterday, Albeck finished her testimony for the prosecution.

litm

Authorities to decide who gets Tashkent boy

The welfare authorities will decide what will happen to Boris Talinsky, 11, from Tashkent, who arrived here with his mother and was taken by his father, who falsely reported him missing last Wednesday to keep him from returning to Uzbekistan with his mother.

The father was released from the Holon lock-up yesterday, after police decided not to charge him.

The police have determined that the boys parents are not divorced, only separated, and the welfare authorities are to decide which parent gets custody.

litm

Israeli honored for work with ex soldiers

The World Federation of Discharged Soldiers, based in Paris, yesterday announced the award of a prize for rehabilitation to Aryeh Fink, a former head of the Defense Ministry's Rehabilitation Division.

Fink is the first Israeli to be cited by the federation, an umbrella group for the discharged soldiers' organizations of 60 countries.

litm

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the seven of spades, jack of hearts, ten of diamonds, and king of clubs.

Tax official indicted for bribery

THE Tel Aviv regional supervisor for purchase tax and VAT was indicted in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday for accepting bribes from Negev Ceramics, Telkar, Gottex Models, and film producer Yehuda Barkan, owner of Ro'i Productions.

According to the indictment, Yehuda Kanas, 46, and his wife went to the Negev Ceramics showroom in July, 1993, and told general manager Amiel Ronel they wanted to buy tile, but had a money problem. Several days later, Kanas reappeared and asked Ronel to sell him the tile, at a discount. When Ronel offered him a small discount, Kanas pressed for a larger one.

Because of Kanas's ability to affect the company's business, Ronel sold him the tile at NIS 29 a sq.m. instead of the normal price of NIS 72. He also didn't charge him VAT, which would have been NIS 648, or the usual delivery charge of NIS 100-NIS 200.

Despite this huge discount, Kanas didn't pay his bill on time, and the company had to send him a reminder.

Kanas maintains that he took care of Negev Ceramics, its general manager, giving them an "advocate" in the custom's office.

Kanas also allegedly successfully pressed the owner of Telkar, an automobile importer, to convince the Eldan car rental company - which owed him NIS 13 million - to sell him a car at a discount.

He also got the owners of Gottex Models to hire his wife.

During the period when his wife was working for Ro'i Productions, the indictment maintains, Kanas arranged a generous payment schedule for the NIS 70,000 the company owed in VAT. He also urged various companies and their senior executives to meet with his wife and listen attentively to her attempts to get them to advertise in theaters showing a film by Ro'i Productions.

(litm)

Anti-drug group vows to fight legalization of 'soft' drugs

SOME 27,000 high school students used drugs classified as "dangerous" during the last school year, the Al-Sam organization reported yesterday.

Thousands of youths regularly participate in acid parties, the group noted.

At a Tel Aviv news conference, the organization also expressed its opposition to legalizing "soft" drugs, such as hashish and marijuana.

The appointment of Likud MK Naomi Blumenthal to head the organization was also announced yesterday. She will replace outgoing chairman Ze'ev Bielsky, mayor of Ra'anana, who held the post

for three years. Blumenthal stress that a distinction cannot be made between different types of drugs. A legitimization of hashish and marijuana is liable to encourage youth to get involved with drugs, she said.

In summarizing the organization's activities, Bielsky said Al-Sam had not succeeded making the drug problem a top national priority. The funds allocated to fight drugs are not sufficient, he added, given that thousands of youth are involved with drugs.

The head of the organization's Tel Aviv branch reported that 250 youth had received treatment for drug problems last year. (litm)

Egyptians tour postal facilities here

JUDY SIEGEL

TOP officials of the postal service in Egypt, where the average citizen receives only five letters per year, were impressed yesterday by the Israel Postal Authority's computerization and marketing campaigns.

Mukhtar Sabbagh, of Egypt's postal service, is here for his first week-long tour of postal facilities here. Sabbagh told *The Jerusalem Post* that it was too early to say what ongoing cooperation he would like to see between his organization and the Postal Authority, but he noted that he was sure the visit would lead to a new channel for exchange of information.



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Jerusalem District Electricity Co. Ltd.

Tender 27/94

Infrared Hot Line Inspection System

Bids are invited for the supply of an Infrared Hot Line Inspection System, as detailed in the tender documents.

A copy of the specifications and conditions of tender can be obtained from the Secretary Board of Directors, 15 Salah E-Din Street, East Jerusalem, Tel. 282335/6/7, until November 24, 1994.

Bids should be submitted not later than 12 noon on December 15, 1994.

Jerusalem District Electricity Co. Ltd.

Tender 28/94

Aluminum and Bimetallic Line Taps

Bids are invited for the supply of Aluminum and Bimetallic Line Taps, as detailed in the tender documents.

A copy of the specifications and conditions of tender can be obtained from the Secretary Board of Directors, 15 Salah E-Din Street, East Jerusalem, Tel. 282335/6/7, until November 24, 1994.

Bids should be submitted not later than 12 noon on December 15, 1994.

HAIFA READERS

Senior staffers of The Jerusalem Post including

President and Publisher Yehuda Levy, Executive Editor David Bar-Ilan,

and Jerusalem Post reporters will be visiting Haifa on Wednesday,

November 16.

Readers and friends are invited to meet with them at 5:30 p.m. at the Haifa Town Hall, 14 Rehov Hassan Shukri, for a questions and answers session, in the presence of Mayor Amram Mitzna.

Refreshments.

Please confirm your attendance by phoning CLC 02-247555.

Clinton shifts from politics to security

DONNA SMITH
JAKARTA

PRESIDENT Clinton, struggling to regain his footing since election setbacks last week, tried to shift the focus to Asian security as he and other leaders gathered here for an economic summit.

But the political upheaval that brought a Republican takeover of Congress and put Clinton's own Democrats in the minority kept creeping into discussions the president held with some of the most powerful leaders in the region.

Another issue overshadowing the Clinton visit and APEC summit was East Timor, although the issue of recurring allegations of human rights abuses in the former Portuguese territory now ruled by Indonesia have only come up briefly.

East Timor was in the spotlight because of riots in the East Timor capital Dili and an invasion of the US embassy compound in Jakarta by 29 students demanding Clinton help secure the release of their jailed guerrilla hero.

The president said he had been assured by the Indonesian government there would be no retribution against the embassy occupiers. He is expected to discuss human rights issues with President Suharto during a state visit tomorrow.

The power structure change in the new congress to be seated in January was raised in talks between Clinton and Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama.

In opening remarks to Clinton during a bilateral session ahead of today's Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, the prime minister made a point of

saying he had been reassured by Americans following the elections that there would be no change in American foreign policy.

Clinton joked that last year it was the US government that was being reassured by a new Japanese government about policy continuity and now positions were reversed, officials said.

Before arriving in Jakarta, Clinton stopped in Manila where Philippine President Fidel Ramos tried to comfort him with the Bible at a luncheon on Sunday. Quoting a verse from the Bible according to Luke, Ramos said he "tells us that no prophet is accepted in his hometown."

Clinton's party took one of the worst beatings in decades last Tuesday when Republicans won control of both houses of Congress for the first time in 40 years.

His political woes also drifted into the discussions with Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating yesterday, officials said.

"When two practicing politicians get together they talk about each other's politics...they compare notes," an administration official said. "It wasn't in the context of reassurance about continuity, they were talking about politics."

But the election upset did not dominate discussions held on the eve of the 18-member APEC summit, officials said.

"It did not come up in the meeting with the Chinese," an official said.

Clinton and Chinese President Jiang Zemin mainly focused on an



US President Bill Clinton and Indonesian President Suharto arrive for last night's APEC dinner at the Jakarta Conference Center. (Reuters)

agreement between North Korea and the United States calling on Pyongyang to freeze and dismantle its nuclear weapons program. Clinton also raised concerns about China's human rights record. Establishing a nuclear free Korean peninsula and the need to encourage a dialogue between

North and South Korea dominated yesterday's talks. US officials said.

China "welcomed strongly" the agreement declared there is "no difference between the United States and China on implementing it," one American official said. Officials said Jiang was less

forthcoming over human rights.

"The Chinese responded in general terms as they have before," one said. "They say they are trying to extend human rights within their society, but stability is very important and the sovereignty of China is very important." (Reuters)

APEC's alphabet soup of weasel words

KENNETH L. WHITING
JAKARTA

AFTER the AELM, the CTI may deal with TRIMS and TRIPS, possibly with input from ANZCERTA and AFTA.

Welcome to the wacky world of APEC where acronyms run amok and every little label has a meaning all its own.

APEC's formal name is Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, often described as adjectives in search of a noun.

AELM is the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting where President Clinton meets representatives of 17 other "Economies" today. That's Economies with a capital E to cover the status of Hong Kong, a British colony, and Taiwan, which is claimed by China.

In a concession to Beijing, the governor of Hong Kong and the president of Taiwan

have been asked to send deputies in their place. In another concession, Taiwan is called "Chinese Taipei," never Taiwan or its official name, the Republic of China.

Officials insist it's not a summit, but an informal gathering of leaders with no agenda.

With many divergent aims and contending interests, the non-summit may not achieve an immediate breakthrough on trade or investment.

But it is producing a bumper crop of bureaucratic acronyms and abbreviations. Mercifully, most are clumsy contrac-

tions with a short shelf life.

As for translating the example in the first paragraph:

After the AELM, the Committee of Trade and Investment (CTI) may deal with Trade Related Investment Measures (TRIMS) and Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), possibly with input from the Australia-New Zealand Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement (ANZCERTA) and the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA).

ASEAN, the six-country Association of

Southeast Asian Nations, played a special role in founding APEC and brought along its own series of initials, including ZOPFAN, for Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality in Southeast Asia.

To prepare for the non-summit, an EPG (Eminent Persons Group) and an equally eminent PBF (Pacific Business Forum) produced long reports which recommended the removal of NTBs (Non Tariff Barriers).

The reports were regarded as CBMs (Confidence Building Measures), even though some thorny questions of ROO (Rules of Origin) and VER (Voluntary Export Restraints) remain unanswered and may require the attention of DIMS (Dispute Mediation Service). (AP)

Republicans to challenge Clinton's foreign policy

DONALD M. ROTHBERG
WASHINGTON

A DEMOCRATIC Congress pushed President Clinton to end US enforcement of the arms embargo against the Bosnian Muslims. Starting in January, a Republican majority will pursue its own aims, challenging Clinton policies on foreign aid, NATO, the United Nations and Haiti.

The incoming Republican chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Jesse Helms of North Carolina, set the tone the day after the Republican election sweep when he called for an end to "this stupid business of giving away the taxpayers' money willy-nilly."

Helms also took a swipe at NATO, a keystone of US foreign

policy for nearly half a century.

"I have been concerned for a long time about our people, our taxpayers being required to bear the brunt of the cost of NATO," he said.

The conflict between presidents and Congress over control of foreign policy is as old as the Constitution. It's a dispute that doesn't always play out along partisan lines. It was fellow Democrats who challenged President Johnson's policy on Vietnam and pushed through the War Powers Act to limit presidential authority to commit US troops without a declaration of war.

"It's very easy for the Hill to be negative, to say no," said Arnold

Kanter, who was the third-ranking official in the State Department during the Bush administration. "If it's tough-minded enough, it can transform its power to say no into very sweeping powers."

Kanter pointed out that Congress forced Clinton to lift the Bosnian arms embargo by cutting off funds for the operation as of Nov. 15.

Mickey Edwards, who was a Republican congressman from Oklahoma for 16 years, said that as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee rather than its

ranking minority member, Helms will be "much more able to use the War Powers Act to cause grief for the president."

Now a lecturer at Harvard, Edwards said that in a case like Haiti or Somalia, an aggressive committee chairman could hold hearings "and fire a lot of salvos to make the president's position untenable."

At the same time, Edwards, a former chairman of the American Conservative Union, said Helms was not a good bellwether of Republican thinking on foreign policy.

"Helms represents the kooky (eccentric) Pat Buchanan wing of the party," he said.

Edwards and historian Michael Beschloss agreed that a Republican Congress would have made it much more difficult for Clinton to use a threat of invasion to force the military rulers of Haiti from power.

"It would have been much more difficult for Clinton to go into Haiti without congressional authorization," said Beschloss, the author of books on the Cuban missile crisis and the end of the Cold War.

"I don't think Haiti would have happened," said Edwards, if it involved sending troops into battle. "A Republican Congress probably would have stopped it from happening" by threatening to cut off funds.

Another likely target of the new Republican majority is the United Nations.

"They now have a majority that is much more skeptical about the value of the United Nations," said Beschloss.

Helms put it far more strongly, calling the UN "that nemesis of millions of Americans." (AP)

Pope: Church must acknowledge previous sins

News agencies
VATICAN CITY

POPE John Paul, in a letter on plans for the year 2000, said yesterday the Church should admit past sins and suggested in a reference to Nazism that many Catholics had acquiesced in the excesses of totalitarianism.

The 74-year-old Pope, who has been plagued by health problems, also made clear that he is determined to live to see the start of the third millennium and preside over what he called "The Great Jubilee."

In outlining plans to celebrate the new millennium, the pope also repeated a desire to retrace the travels of Abraham and Moses and to visit Damascus, associated with Saint Paul. Such a trip would take him to Israel, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Jordan and other countries.

"It would be very significant if in the year 2000 it were possible to visit the places on the road taken by the people of God of the Old Covenant," he wrote.

The pope set down his views in a letter released yesterday that appeared to be a major step toward meeting the demands of critics for a self-examination of church errors.

As the second millennium draws to a close, "the Church should become more fully conscious of the sinfulness of her children, recalling all those times in history when they departed from the spirit of Jesus and his Gospel," John Paul said in the letter to Roman Catholics.

Some critics of the Church have said the Vatican should fully own up to abuses in the name of religion such as the Spanish Inquisition or for failing to speak out against the Nazi Holocaust — an allegation the Vatican has always denied.

He announced a string of Church gatherings in Rome, Israel and around the world to prepare for the jubilee, which will mark 2,000 years of Christianity. Calling on Catholics to examine

their consciences, he said: "Acknowledging the weaknesses of the past is an act of honesty and courage which helps us to strengthen our faith..."

Speaking of the Church in the 20th century, the Pope said:

"How can we not lament the lack of discernment, which at times became even acquiescence, shown by many Christians concerning the violation of fundamental human rights by totalitarian regimes?"

This appeared to be a reference to human rights abuses under Communism, which sought to wipe out religion, and under Nazism, which exterminated Jews.

Jews often accuse the Vatican of not having done enough to stop the Holocaust. The Church says it acted, often behind the scenes, to save Jews.

In his letter, the Pope appeared to pin responsibility for acquiescence in human rights violations under totalitarian regimes to individuals rather than the Church as an institution.

The Polish Pope, whose native country was home to most of the Nazi death camps, said this century had been "scarred by the First and Second World Wars, by the experience of concentration camps and by horrendous massacres."

He pointed to the responsibility of the Church as an institution in a reference to the 16th century Inquisition, which was marked by the forced conversion and expulsion of Jews and the torture and killing of "heretics."

In the first phase of the jubilee preparations, from 1995 to 1996, a special international Church committee will suggest action at a worldwide level.

Looking ahead to 2000, John Paul said the actual celebrations of the Jubilee will take place simultaneously in Israel, Rome and local churches throughout the world.

Chunnel service opens

PARIS (AP) — Hundreds of passengers left Paris, London and Brussels yesterday morning and raced to each others' cities on the inaugural public run of high-speed trains through the channel tunnel.

A Eurostar passenger train left for its three-hour, six-minute rides from Paris to downtown London on schedule at 8:07 a.m., a relief to rail officials after a series of embarrassing delays during test runs for invited guests.

Other trains left London for Paris and for the three-hour, fifteen-minute trip to Brussels through the \$16 billion tunnel, the world's largest engineering project.

All arrived safely amid party atmospheres aboard, with the London-Paris train coming in four minutes ahead of schedule.

The 794 passengers left the Gare du Nord station on Paris' Right Bank for London's Waterloo station, which French and British railway officials hope will eat into the heavy air and ferry traffic across the channel.

Cabin attendants in yellow and blue uniforms designed by Pierre Balmain staffed the trains. Meals were served in first class, with yesterday morning's fare a Franco-British mix of croissants, bread, ham, cheese and orange marmalade.

Ten minutes after leaving Paris the \$40 million, 18-car train hit its top speed of 300 kph.

It slowed to 160 kph for the 20 minutes it took to pass through the

twin 50.5-km tunnels, one for each direction, from near Calais to Folkestone, England. A third tunnel is for maintenance and emergencies.

"I'm afraid to fly, so this is great," said Mara Roth, 34, of New York. Like other passengers, she said she found the ride pleasantly smooth.

The first train to leave Brussels departed at 8:28 a.m. for London with about 500 aboard, and from London at 8:23 a.m. for Paris with close to 800 passengers.


Sixty-year-old Joan Deverinne of London, who was first in line to buy a ticket for yesterday's service when they first went on sale three weeks ago, planned to spend the day shopping in Paris.

First-class passengers pay \$311 for round-trip passage, while those in second class pay \$248 or if they reserve 14 days or more in advance, \$152. Children younger than 12 go for half price, and children younger than four for free.

The prices are comparable to air fare between Paris and London, with the advantage of avoiding travel to one of London's airports.

Cross-channel ferry prices at this time of year range from \$29 per car and up to five people for a 24-hour stay to \$240 for a car and up to nine people, valid for a year.

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Norway next on EU list

STOCKHOLM (Reuters) - An informal accord among Nordic leaders to try for a domino effect of three countries agreeing to join the European Union has worked again, with Sweden joining Finland as a new member.

Now for the toughest nut: Norway.

The sweep of European Union membership - a program that will expand the EU to 16 members if successful - started in Finland last month, continued in Sweden on Sunday and is due to end in Norway in two weeks' time.

However, the domino theory could come unstuck in the face of stubborn opposition from Norwegians, who continue to stand out as the most unwilling EU members of all the Nordic countries.

Denmark joined the EU in 1973 at the same time as Norwegians rejected membership in a referendum. Opinion polls, which have so far been very accurate in Finland and Sweden, indicate Norway could be the joker in the pack.

Nordic leaders have denied any formal coordination to ensure all three countries join the EU from January 1.

Finland was always a virtual certainty for membership. It eventually voted by 57 percent to 43 to join.

In Sweden, opinion polls for the past 12 months pointed to solid resistance. Analysis of the results showed that only dire warnings of economic disaster from Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson persuaded voters to agree in the week before Sunday's referendum. In the end, Swedes voted by 52.2 percent to 46.9 to join.

Now it's Norway's turn. Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, a gutsy veteran, faces the toughest fight of her career to persuade her stubborn countrymen that there are advantages to joining the EU.

The main glimmer of light for Norway's pro-Europeans comes from opinion polls that indicated a Swedish "yes" could influence Norwegians.

The left-leaning daily *Arbeiderbladet* said yesterday: "We can now say that the Swedes know which side their bread is buttered on. We cannot separate ourselves from the decision our Nordic neighbors have made."

The key to Norway's referendum may be a clear trend that emerged in Finland of outright rejection of EU membership in rural and arctic areas.

In Finland and Sweden, urban populations were big enough to outweigh the rejection by the people who live in the country. But Norway's population, according to demographers, is essentially rural.

Even in Norway's main centers, most people retain deep-rooted ties with their home communities where opposition from farmers and fishermen who distrust Brussels is at its highest.

EU member states were relieved yesterday as news of Sweden's decision sank in and confirmed that the union's plan to increase its size by one-third from January has now been a success, independently of Norway's vote.

However, there is likely to be considerable tension about whether Sweden should dump its policy of military neutrality and join Europe's efforts to build a common defense policy.



Bosnian Serb soldiers look at map during fighting against Muslim forces outside Bihac yesterday. (Reuters)

Serbs threaten Bihac enclave

SEAN MAGUIRE
SARAJEVO

BOSNIAN Serb forces pressed ahead yesterday with a fierce counter-attack on the Muslim enclave of Bihac, but UN peacekeepers said they would not intervene to halt the onslaught around a designated "safe area".

Bosnian Serbs had recaptured most of the territory lost to Muslim troops last month in northwest Bosnia and seized high ground above Bihac town, UN spokesman Colonel Tim Spicer said.

"It appears the BSA (Bosnian Serb army) have retaken most of what they lost, probably around 80 percent," said Spicer. "We think they managed to get back up on high ground dominating Bihac town in a push on Sunday afternoon and evening."

United Nations officials said they would not act to halt the Serb assault, despite shelling attacks on Bihac town, which is a UN-designated "safe area" on the southern edge of the enclave. Serbs shelled the outskirts of the town on Sunday, Spicer said.

"We have had reports of shelling that were in violation of the safe area. It was a village just on the southeastern edge of the safe bound-

ary," Spicer told reporters.

Bihac town came under repeated shelling attack last week by rebel Serb artillery in neighboring Croatia. Rebel Krajina Serbs also carried out an air strike on Bihac town from Croatian air space.

The Security Council met in emergency session on Sunday and condemned the latest fighting around Bihac, expressing particular concern over the role of the Croatian Serbs.

But Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic yesterday called the United Nations statement "meaningless" and urged NATO to carry out air strikes to stop attacks by Bosnian Serb forces and rebel Serbs in Croatia.

"They should order NATO air strikes against Serb positions - not one and a half bombs but a real air strike. Now they (Serbs) are attacking across all borders," Silajdzic said during a visit to London.

The UN special representative in former Yu-

goslavia, Yasushi Akashi, has played down suggestions the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) might step in around Bihac.

"We are deeply concerned about the offensive and counter-offensive spiral," said Akashi. "But unless there is a resolve of the parties to come to terms, what a peacekeeping force can do is very limited."

The UN argues that is not equipped to impose peace by force and to try to do so would expose its widely dispersed and lightly armed units to reprisals, particularly from the Bosnian Serbs.

The Croatian government earlier rebuffed a request by Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic for military aid against the Serbs and said it was up to the United Nations to act.

The Bosnian Serbs had seized back most of the ground captured by Muslim-led troops in an offensive some two weeks ago in the northwest and were now threatening to move the Muslims past previous front lines.

"The confrontation line is still very fluid," Spicer said.

(Reuters)

Hitler ad causes uproar in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AP) - A full-page advertisement yesterday in a leading Hong Kong newspaper showing Adolf Hitler standing with his brown-shirt cronies has triggered an uproar among readers and the Jewish community.

The agency that produced the ad for a Hong Kong television station issued an apology after readers deluged the English-language *South China Morning Post* with expressions of shock.

Asia Television Ltd., which placed the advertisement to promote advertising sales, also said an apology would appear in the *Post* today.

The ad's caption said "thank goodness" Hitler couldn't advertise on ATV because "with 90 percent of Europe under his control he still lost the war."

It also urged advertisers to call their advertising agencies before coming up with their "final solution" - the same term used by the Nazis for the Holocaust.

Stuart Cotsen, chairman of the Hong Kong Jewish Club, said the ad has "brought great shame on the media."

"It deeply offends not only the Jewish community but any right-thinking members of the community," he said. "I can't sufficiently say how sickening that is."

Rabbi Mordechai Avtzon of a local synagogue said, "We would only accept an apology as prominent as the ad. There was no excuse for them."

Tommy Cheng, a spokesman for the Ball Partnership company, which produced the ad, said there was no intention of hurting anyone's feelings.

He said the image of Hitler was used in a "tongue-in-cheek" manner, to show that one cannot always be dominant.

Allen Chichester, managing director of the Leo Burnett advertising agency in this British colony, said he would vote the ad as the

WITH 90% OF EUROPE UNDER HIS CONTROL HE STILL LOST THE WAR.



A copy of the full-page Asian Television ad in Hong Kong's leading newspaper. (AP)

most offensive of "the year, if not the decade."

Sally Chow, assistant general manager of the *South China Morning Post*, said the paper was at fault for overlooking the poor taste of the advertisement.

"Because the ad was from ATV and it came in late hours, we had assumed it would be just another entertainment campaign," said Chow.

David Armstrong, editor of the paper, said a notice would be published today to apologize for the oversight.

Monet painting dispute unresolved

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Supreme Court, for the second time in six years, declined yesterday to take up a dispute over ownership of a painting by impressionist Claude Monet.

The justices, without comment, refused to revive a lawsuit by a German woman who says the painting was hers when it was stolen from a castle during World War II. Gerda Dorothea DeWeerth says she had inherited Monet's "Champs de Ble a Vetheuil" from her father, who bought it at a Berlin gallery in 1908.

In 1943, DeWeerth's lawsuit said, she transferred the oil painting to her sister's castle in Oberalheim for safekeeping. It was found to be missing shortly after US soldiers, who had been staying there, left in 1945.

Edith Marks Baldinger of New York City bought the painting in undisputed good faith in 1957 from an art gallery. DeWeerth sued Baldinger in 1983, shortly after learning Baldinger had the painting. Baldinger's main defense was that DeWeerth had waited too long to sue.

A federal trial judge in New York City ruled in 1987 that DeWeerth was the painting's lawful owner, but the 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals reversed his ruling that same year.

The court ruled DeWeerth had not shown reasonable diligence in locating the stolen property, which the 2nd Circuit court said was a requirement under New York law.

But in a 1991 ruling in an unrelated case, New York's highest court said no such reasonable diligence requirement exists under the state's law.

LONDON (Reuters) - A jealous British toddler killed his six-week old sister by battering her against the side of a chair, a newspaper reported yesterday.

The three-year-old boy's mother told an inquest that her son was unhappy about the arrival of his new sister.

"My son did not like the baby. We had to be careful with him."

This happened while I was in the kitchen," *The Daily Mail* quoted the unidentified woman as saying.

The death was initially attributed to natural causes until a post-mortem revealed that the infant had died from a skull fracture that had been caused by a significant blow.

"Police spoke to the boy's elder sister and, using a doll, she described seeing her brother pick up

the baby and fling her against the settee," the Mail said.

When officers questioned the boy about what happened he lifted the doll and flung it to the ground saying, "Dead".

The coroner recorded a verdict of accidental death and ruled that the boy from Blackpool in northwestern England was incapable of criminal intent because of his age.

Jealous toddler kills baby sister

Storm diverts Atlantis shuttle landing to California

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE (AP) - Atlantis and its six astronauts landed in California's Mojave Desert yesterday as Tropical Storm Gordon's weather hit the shuttle's home base in Florida. Commander Donald McNagle brought the spaceship down through a clear sky at Edwards Air Force Base at 7:34 a.m., ending the 11-day atmospheric research mission.

Hours before the scheduled touchdown at Kennedy Space Center in Florida, it was obvious that the weather would bar any chance that Atlantis could end its flight there.

Gordon, expected to pass just south of mainland Florida last

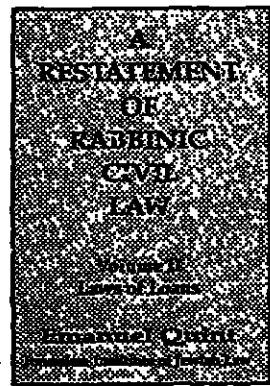
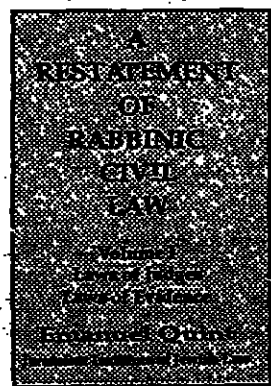
night, had already upped its winds at Kennedy early yesterday.

Weather at the desert landing strip was good.

It turned out to be a 7-million-km journey for Atlantis. The only reported problems during the trip downhill were a slight rudder-pedal drift and erratic temperature readings in a fuel line.

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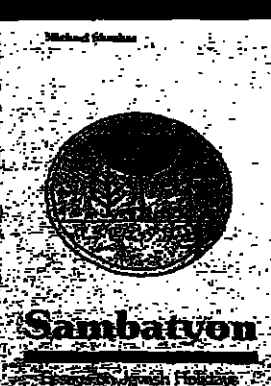
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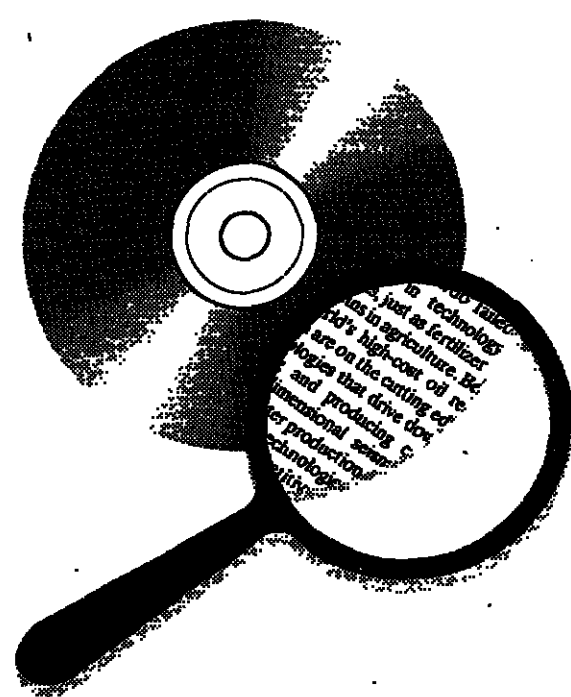
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The Christopher postponement

COMMENTING on the postponement of Secretary of State Warren Christopher's shuttle trip to the Middle East, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said that even the Americans are upset by Syria's attitude. Their frequent announcements of progress in the negotiations notwithstanding, Syria's dictator, Hafez Assad, does not seem eager to make progress.

True, the Syrians are making some gestures. Western visitors are impressed by Damascus billboards hailing Assad as the apostle of peace; visiting American Peace Now supporters are flattered by an invitation to appear on Syrian television; and Israelis applaud the release of Syrian Jews and an Israeli television interview with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara. But Assad seems in no mood to make substantive steps toward concluding an agreement with Israel.

Nor do Israeli blandishments seem to work. Only yesterday Peres said that Assad is 15 years behind the times. Had he emulated the late Egyptian president Anwar Sadat, he could have had everything Sadat got in 1979, he said. The hint is hardly subtle. Like the favorite Israeli formula "the depth of the withdrawal will match the depth of the peace," it means that Israel is prepared to relinquish every inch of territory on the Golan Heights for a "full peace." Israeli columnists, puzzled by Assad's recalcitrance, call on him to hurry, or he may miss this opportunity to regain the whole Golan.

Yet Assad seems unwilling to accommodate even the US, the country whose favor he hopes to acquire, on such minimal requests as the condemnation of terrorism. On his visit to Damascus last month, a week after the Tel Aviv bus massacre, President Bill Clinton discussed the matter of terrorism with him. He did not ask Assad to denounce the bus attack specifically, but to state

that he deplored the loss of innocent lives, "whether it is in Tel Aviv or Hebron."

This would have balanced the Hamas bombing, an organized act of terrorism praised by a majority of Palestinians, with the Baruch Goldstein attack on worshippers in Machpela Cave, an act of one crazed individual condemned by the vast majority of Israelis. Assad agreed to do so at the press conference, following his meeting with Clinton. He even denied that he had discussed terrorism with the president. As revealed Sunday by Washington Post columnist Jack Anderson and Michael Binstein, Clinton was so irritated by this conduct that on his way to Israel aboard Air Force One, he called Assad's denial a "blatant lie" and expressed himself in "undiplomatic language."

No one has acted more like Assad's salesmen than the American "peace team," a group of officials left over from the Bush administration. Cheering every tiny gesture as a major breakthrough, they have led themselves and others to believe that an agreement with Syria is around the corner. What they do not seem to understand is that Assad is not a negotiator in the Western sense of the word. He is not willing to make any real compromises. Like all dictators, he is free of internal pressures and can afford to out-wait democratic adversaries. Not unreasonably, he expects his patience to pay off with complete American-Israeli capitulation to his terms.

Peres's interpretation of Christopher's postponement - that it is intended as a warning to Damascus - may be more wishful thinking than a true assessment of US intentions. But it would be encouraging if Christopher, having just witnessed Assad's duplicity, realized that there are times - especially in dealing with dictators - when toughness pays.

Shambles in Bosnia

NOW that all sides in the Bosnian conflict are committed to attempting a military solution, the US decision to stop enforcing the arms embargo on the Bosnian government is probably sensible. An arms embargo makes sense only when it aims to stop or contain a conflict, or to punish an intransigent aggressor - as with Saddam Hussein.

While efforts to end the war in former Yugoslavia have rightly been the top priority, it makes little sense, given the failure of endless cease-fires, to deny the weaker Moslem side the means to defend itself.

The Bosnian Serbs' captured 75 percent of Bosnia and then refused to accept an internationally-brokered peace treaty which the Moslem-led government accepted. The military offensive now in progress is demonstrating again the inherent weakness of the Moslem forces and the overwhelming strength of the Serbs.

Despite some initial successes, the Bosnian government's army is proving unable to defend what little territory it still controls. The Moslem action could hardly be termed an offensive - the government army merely broke out of the encircled Bihać pocket and won 250 square kilometers

of Serb-held territory. The Serb counterattack has already retaken 80 percent of the Moslem gains, including strategic heights above Bihać city.

In these circumstances, it is unfair to deny the recognized government the ability to arm itself - especially when NATO and the United Nations are considering whether to launch more air strikes on Serb forces. The Bosnian Moslems have been trying to recapture territory that would in any case be theirs under the terms of the peace plan. The Serbs are not only trying to hold all they have grabbed, in defiance of the international community, but to extend their control.

Of course, there are no saints in this war and the dynamics of conflict would undoubtedly make it difficult to stop the Moslem forces if they gained the upper hand. The European powers have been muddled, inconsistent and ineffectual throughout the Yugoslav war. They should now accept and build on the US effort to even the balance on the ground. Lifting the arms embargo will not turn the losing side into winners. It may just prevent Bosnia from becoming the second Serbian state in the former Yugoslavia. Only when the Serbs realize such an aim is futile will there be any chance of a negotiated settlement.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COMMUNITY PHYSICIANS

Sir, - David Samson's article of November 4, "Is your medical practitioner really qualified?" rightfully stresses Israel's need to have properly trained community physicians. He cites the hospital physician-specialist, supported by his proximity to the academic environment, as a prototype of high standard medical care. He goes on to say that academic medical school departments should be enlisted for establishing networks of relevant postgraduate education for community-based practitioners.

As little as I, a community physician, understand about performing an appendectomy so do hospital physicians understand the intricacies of out-patient practices. This situation is made all more extreme in Israel where there exists a complete dichotomy between hospital and community physician, whereby the latter has no license to give care to his patient while in hospital and the former will usually never again see his patient after discharge. In the US, every internal medicine training program is mandated to include for its trainees

one day per week of out-patient care. In Israel, no such provision exists. In my own attempt to introduce such a program to several Jerusalem hospitals, I found both professors and students utterly apathetic to the idea. This apathy underlines the abyss between the "ivory tower" academic physician (perhaps more interested in research and teaching) and the community physician who, in fact, has nobody empowered or qualified to teach him.

Dr. Samson writes that "the time has come to underwrite the standard of medical practice in the community; and the basic elements need for setting up suitable mechanisms to oversee this already exist." Though agreeing with his sentiments, I fail to see where any such network exists.

Until the Health Ministry forces the medical establishment to adopt a more serious attitude toward the training of out-patient care-givers the community physician will be left to his own devices.

JOSEPH ROTHENBERG
Jerusalem.

THE BUILDING TRADE

Sir, - Certain segments of our economy, particularly the building industry, depend on "cheap" labor. In fact this cheap labor, imported from the territories, is very expensive, if one adds in the cost of the police and army required to attempt to maintain security.

To wean ourselves of this habit, it will be necessary to make the employer start paying the true costs. The simplest way of doing this would be to charge a license fee for the right to work in Israel. Each laborer from the territories would have to buy this license, which would be good for say a month. He would receive a special computer-readable plastic card which would record his ID information, expiry date, and other information.

As the laborer would have to pay the license fee, he would have to ask

for more money to make it worth his while, hence the cost would be passed on to the employer.

As labor costs rise, it becomes more attractive to use labor-saving materials and methods as in other advanced economies. It would be necessary to remove quotas on the import of building materials, and eliminate tariffs. It would also be highly desirable to revise archaic building regulations which restrict the use of more efficient building methods and materials.

The net result could well be a reduction of building costs in spite of higher labor rates. We could also expect to see a return to the use of Jewish labor.

STEPHEN S. COHEN
Ma'alch Adumim.

PROPHETIC ROLE MODEL

Sir, - So Shulamit Aloni has decided to take on Joshua. Your report on her address at Hebrew Union College (October 14) has her noting, quite correctly, that the Book of Joshua is filled with conquest and settlement and other such primitive political ideas. The text is a veritable handbook for those fanatics who take literally the idea that there is place called Eretz Yisrael, and who need such ideas when they stand in the way of universal peace. Better, thinks she, to relegate such subversive literature to the trash heap, as she has already done with the Five Books that preceded Joshua in the Jewish Bible.

But her choice of Isaiah as the religious model was a classic blunder. True, Isaiah speaks of peace, justice and righteousness. But he also had a few choice words on some other subjects as well, with which our minister of communications might be less comfortable. Space does not permit verse-by-verse quotations, but any reader with a Book of Isaiah around might spend a few minutes studying the following subversive passages in Isaiah, and see them through the eyes and person of Ms. Aloni.

For instance, his insistence on Sabbath observance (Isaiah 56:2 and 58:13); his exclusivity of Jerusalem (52:1) and its purpose (2:3); his cynicism about some "peace processes" (57:21); his disdain for those who belittle kashrut (66:17); and even a word or two about the Shulamit Aloni types (3:15-16). No, Isaiah is no better than Joshua if she is looking for a prophetic role model.

As a sensitive and a religiously observant Israeli, I can't even get angry at Aloni's outburst. She has become a caricature even to her political allies, a comic character to be taken with a heavy measure of salt. She's not dangerous, not a threat, just an occasional embarrassment.

RABBI MACY GORDON
Jerusalem.



'His Master's Voice'

ARIEL SHARON

DURING my many years as an army commander and as a cabinet minister, intelligence reports and fact-based evaluations were generally made independently of the political party in power.

Today, unfortunately, the reverse is true. Why? Because in many cases, intelligence reports indicate a totally different course of action from the one the government is taking, and run counter to the "information" our leaders release to the public.

Example: For more than a year, intelligence reports said Yasser Arafat wouldn't fight terror, and that attacks on Israelis would continue.

But what did the government tell the public? That Arafat would fight terror, "without recourse to the High Court of Justice."

Yet terror has increased, taking a heavy toll. Friday's suicide bombing at the Netzarim checkpoint, which killed three IDF reservists and wounded six other soldiers, is just the latest in a string of recent attacks on Israeli soldiers and civilians.

Intelligence reports indicated Arafat did not intend to, or couldn't, abrogate the Palestinian Covenant calling for Israel's destruction.

But what did the premier and foreign minister tell the people? That Arafat had promised he would do away with the covenant very soon.

They not only ignored information from the intelligence services, but, in addition, gave the public a dishonest picture.

Only very gradually have I discovered something more: that instead of presenting the facts as they are, some intelligence officers are likely to omit facts or simply not pass them on, for fear of harm

ing our leaders' party-political needs. Or, conversely, they may evaluate situations, without recourse to the facts, to suit the politicians' mood.

The prime minister has forcibly politicized the system. In it, only one voice is heard: "His Master's Voice."

When intelligence is ignored, undermined or tailored to suit the politicians, security is in a very bad way

THERE COULD hardly be a graver example of the government's attempt to whitewash reality and bend facts to suit its policy than the premier's attempt last week to undermine and question the motives of Brig.-Gen. Ya'acov Amidror, a senior Intelligence Branch officer who cast doubts on the credibility of Syria's Hafez Assad.

But Amidror was doing no more than stating the truth. Assad has broken agreements, whenever and wherever he pleases.

In the Six Day War, in violation of the 1949 armistice agreement, when we were still fighting on the Egyptian front and Assad (then defense minister) thought we had weakened or were hard-pressed, Syrian tanks attacked the northern sector of the Galilee panhandle. They were repelled, and the attack resulted in Israel's conquering the Golan.

In the Yom Kippur War, Assad violated the 1967 cease-fire and, without any provocation from Israel, attacked the Golan Heights,

his forces almost crossing the Jordan River.

The premier flaunts the 1974 Disengagement of Forces agreement. But Assad breached that pact as well, by ordering the replacement of ground-to-air missiles in Lebanon in 1981, inhibiting Israeli overflights and ignoring the "red lines" in the sector.

Today, Assad is violating agreements by encouraging and actively aiding Hizbullah's forces and Palestinian terror groups to launch attacks which cause heavy casualties to our units in southern Lebanon.

The fact that Assad is doing this in Lebanon changes nothing: Lebanon is Syrian-occupied. Hizbullah's bases are in territory that has been effectively Syrian since January 1976.

The Palestinian terror organizations now operating more vigorously in southern Lebanon are all headquartered in Damascus. In Lebanon, Assad finds it easy to violate agreements, whereas on the Golan, it's harder and more dangerous, because of the IDF's proximity to Damascus.

What Brig.-Gen. Amidror said about Assad was honest, responsible and professional. And it was timely. What it means is that Israel must ensure the best possible security arrangements vis-à-vis Syria.

There have been too many indications that our security is being undermined. Failures have been too many and too frequent for it to be a coincidence. And when the issue is IDF intelligence evaluations, it is very dangerous.

The question is: Has the rot set in even in our intelligence community?

The writer, a Likud MK, is a former defense minister.

Rabin's terror conundrum

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

ASKED to explain the motives behind Friday's terrorist attack on the road to Netzarim, a Hamas leader explained that the suicide bomber went out on his mission knowing that the Jews he killed would go to hell, and he would go to heaven.

This statement, and other recent ones by Hamas and Islamic Jihad leaders, are enough to curdle the blood.

True, there are Israelis who believe that Baruch Goldstein, who perpetrated the massacre in the Cave of the Patriarchs, went straight to heaven, and that the 29 Moslems he killed went to hell. And just as there are Palestinians who believe the Jews have no rights at all in Palestine, so there are Jews who believe there is no room for any Arabs in Eretz Yisrael.

And yet there is a difference. In our case, only individuals or fringe elements act on such convictions, whereas on the Palestinian side, there is a large, grassroots movement linked to the whole of the Moslem world.

What ought Israel do in this situation?

Opponents of the peace process use terror to advocate the halting of the process and a total and uncompromising war on those who commit atrocities in the name of Islam and those who aid and abet such acts.

Evil must be combated, they say, just as the Allies fought against Nazi Germany, up to the point of unconditional surrender. Only after the Moslem extremists are defeated and eradicated will there be any hope of a lasting settlement between Israel and the Arab states.

by the PLO against Moslem extremists simply isn't realistic.

True, in the last resort, Arafat cannot have peace with both Israel and the terror groups. But just as a comprehensive peace between Israel and the Palestinians isn't something which can be achieved overnight, so the PLO cannot be expected to initiate a total breach with the Moslem rejectionists at this stage.

But in one sphere, Israel must do far more than it has in the past: in getting the international community to take more decisive action against countries which inspire and aid terror groups.

This will necessitate not only intensive behind-the-scenes work by diplomats and intelligence officers, but an extensive, worldwide information campaign, one whose goal is to convince public opinion that Israel isn't the only country threatened by these extremists.

Journalists and pop singers shot dead in Algeria; armed attacks on tourists in Egypt; anti-Western incitement within Moslem communities in Western countries, and terrorist attacks against Jewish targets in Israel and outside can and must be highlighted. So must blunt declarations by Moslem extremists against any sort of peace with Israel.

Israel had its hands tied behind its back in December 1992, when it tried to explain its deportation of 415 Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists.

Today, in the midst of the peace process, Israel's hands are tied no longer. It must speak out clearly in the service of its own interests and those of the rest of the enlightened world.

The writer is a political scientist.

Role model

ALOUPH HAREVEN

MORE than two years have elapsed since the government was formed and included in its basic guidelines a section on equality and integration for Israel's Arab citizens.

Certainly this government has done more for Israeli Arabs than any previous one.

Budget allocations to Arab municipalities have been trebled, and are being equalized with grants to Jewish municipalities.

Resource allocations to Arab schools are being equalized with those to Jewish schools. Arab children are getting social welfare allocations on a par with Jewish children.

New roads are being constructed to Arab towns and villages, and Nazareth has been accorded grade A priority for tourist development.

An unconventional approach could improve the lot of Israeli Arabs

Yet, in several critical areas, progress is still too slow.

Economic development is the way to close the gaps between Jewish and Arab communities. But since the pace of economic development in the Jewish sector is much faster than in the Arab sector, gaps are likely to remain.

The integration of Arab academics in the civil service is also quite slow. The civil service recruited 80 Arab academics in 1994. But see this against a total of 60,000 employees in the civil service as a whole, and 1,200 new recruits annually.

The President's Office, the Prime Minister's Office, and most government ministries in Jerusalem do not yet employ Arabs.

Israeli Arab municipal leaders do acknowledge that goodwill and openness prevail at the top political level in many government ministries.

Closing gaps doesn't just depend on the government. It also depends on effective municipal leadership and services among the Arabs, and on the effectiveness of local entrepreneurs.

If matters are left to bureaucratic procedures - on both the government and municipal levels - the pace of development will remain slow. One official will push things off onto another official, and committees will endlessly await each other's decisions.

The question, therefore, is whether a new dynamic can be initiated, one which can speed up development.

WHY CAN'T key officials from the government, the Arab municipalities and economic entrepreneurs be brought together in something resembling the Camp David model? They could be cloistered together for several days - even a week - in some faraway hotel.

There, they could be guided by a respected public figure, assisted by a small team of facilitators.

What would they talk about? They would discuss, in concrete detail, a development program for a selected town or region.

The outcome would be a program, complete with timetable, specifying what each ministry, municipality and private entrepreneur undertakes to accomplish within the time specified.

Such a model would create a peer group of key personnel dedicated to the program, meeting regularly to review progress.

The difficulty with evolving such a model is that, so far, the government is committed to existing bureaucratic procedures, and it's hard to persuade senior officials to try a novel framework.

But in the absence of any such framework for expediting development in the Arab sector, we may expect further confirmation of this bleak statement by one Israeli Arab academic:

"The predicament of the Arab citizens of Israel is that they are twice marginal. Once, among their own Palestinian brethren, and secondly, in Israel itself."

These Arabs' predicament is the Jewish state's predicament, too. In many Diaspora countries the Jews, as a minority, were marginalized by the majority.

Do we now wish to perpetuate the Diaspora predicament in Israel, merely reversing the roles?

The writer is co-director of Sikkuy, the Association for the Advancement of Equal Opportunity.

מסלול תלמידי

Best of Berlin

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

WHEN the Berlin Philharmonic Quartet starts its tour here later this month, its cellist Jan Dieckelhorst plans to seek out the creator of another string quartet—a fictional one.

Dieckelhorst says he's looking forward to meeting novelist Natan Shoham, author of *The Rosendorf Quartet*. "I would like to know him. He has very good insights into—and ideas about—quartet playing, and I was very impressed with the novel."

The Berlin Philharmonic Quartet was originally slated to play here about 1½ years ago, when the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, the ensemble from which it is drawn, last toured here.

During that tour, local promoters tried to feature the various chamber ensembles from the orchestra in concerts all over the country. The venture failed because not enough tickets were sold. Now local audiences will get a second chance.

The BPO is unusual in that it encourages its members to perform also in chamber-music ensembles. BPO members are regularly featured in a variety of ensembles, each of which plays several dozen concerts a year.

"We are free enough to play 40 concerts a year," said Dieckelhorst, the quartet's cellist, in a phone interview from Berlin. "We enjoy it very much."

Dieckelhorst, 40, joined the BPO in 1977 after an audition for the late conductor Herbert von

Karajan. He is the only member of the quartet who is not the principal of his section. The other members are violinists Daniel Sbrabawa and Christian Stadelman, and violist Neithard Resa.

Dieckelhorst says that the BPO has changed since Claudio Abbado was appointed music director, but "not because of Abbado. It changed because many musicians have retired. About 70 percent have changed in the last 10 years."

He finds it difficult to describe the different sound the orchestra has acquired as a result of these changes. "I'm in the inside and I can't describe it," said Dieckelhorst, making it clear that he'd rather not be talking about the BPO.

The quartet, like all the other chamber-music ensembles created by Berlin Philharmonic members, "does not belong to the orchestra, it's our own organization. The orchestra appreciates that the members are doing chamber music because this raises the standards of the orchestra as a whole."

The quartet's repertoire is fairly standard. "The string quartet repertoire is so rich, and obviously you want to play all the Beethoven and Mozart quartets. Beside that we try to find very interesting music which is not performed that often."

In one of the concerts, they will play the first string quartet by Erwin Schulhoff. "He is not very well known. He is a Czech who was murdered in a concentration camp in Germany in 1942. The quartet was composed in the 1920s and it's a very good piece, it has parts of



The members of the Berlin Philharmonic Quartet are drawn from the orchestra.

Slavonic folklore in it and part of the new sound of the 20s. It's a very interesting piece," he said.

The Berlin Philharmonic Quartet does not play either contemporary music or baroque music on period instruments.

"Baroque music is a very specialized thing. We have learned this new-old way of performing, we hear it and are open to it and our way of interpretation has been influenced by it. But we try to find our own way of playing. After all, we are citizens of our time."

The Berlin Philharmonic Quartet opens its tour on November 25 in Kibbutz Gvat and then performs in Haifa, Kfar Blum, Kfar Sava, Tefen, Rehovot, Jerusalem and Tel Aviv; the final performance is on December 3.

The tour's repertoire, aside from the Schulhoff quartet, features works by Haydn, Beethoven, Brahms and Mendelssohn.

Ex-dancer takes leap of faith

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

AFTER more than two decades in England, one of Israel's most important dance figures is back home, eager to shape a new generation at the Bat-Dor Company.

Moshe Romano, one of the founders of the Batsheva Company back in the early '60s, has left his longtime position as rehearsal director at the London Contemporary Dance Theatre to assume the same post with Bat-Dor.

The 58-year-old Romano began to evaluate his position at the London company following administrative changes and cutbacks.

"I told myself: 'Romano, it's time to return home,'" he says. He's eager to begin his work with Bat-Dor.

"It's great to work in a company that does not work just with one choreographer," he says. "Their repertoire is rich and varied, and the company definitely has a good classical basis."

Clad in blue jeans, with curly hair and glasses, Romano looks more like a farmer or a construction worker than an ex-dancer. A rehearsal director, he explains, "is like a conductor. You take these works and you must make sure that dancers do it perfectly."

For now, he's not involved in the artistic policies of the company, but Romano already has strong ideas on the direction he'd like to see Bat-Dor take.

"I want to see more young people involved in the company. I want to see some new styles and

works and I want to see Israeli choreographers work with Bat-Dor on a more regular basis."

Romano is impressed with the level and the work of the Russian-trained members of the company.

"They grew up breathing classical ballet, pure classical ballet, and now they have to dance more modern repertoire," he says. "It's not easy for them, it's not natural. But they are working very hard on it and I'm more than surprised by their willingness to do so."

The dancer turned director began his career in musicals and Yiddish theater in his native Tel Aviv.

In 1963, when Batsheva de Rothschild founded the Batsheva Dance Company with the close assistance of Marjorie Graham, Romano was there. It was a great time, he recalls.

"We had classes every day. We got a regular salary which was reasonable and we never had to worry about making a living. We were working with the best choreographers in the world at the time, not only Graham but also Glen Tetley, Robert Cohen and Jerome Robbins."

A back injury forced Romano to stop dancing when he was 30. But he didn't want to give up, and eventually returned to the stage.

When the injury recurred, he had to call it quits.

"It shocked me that I really had to stop dancing. It was terrible," he says.

"Every dancer is somewhat of a narcissist. The male dancers then were all fighting hard for each



Romano has his own ideas about the direction Bat-Dor should take. (Haramaty/Photo)

role. I was less ambitious. The performances themselves less interested me. I mainly enjoyed working in the studio. I always compared myself to a Bedouin or a farmer working the land. Seeing a tree in full bloom was never the apex. The excitement was during the work itself."

After the injury, Romano was given a chance to remain with Batsheva as rehearsal director. He went on to also teach for the company and eventually became assistant artistic director for a short period.

Then, he says, "I felt the need to go out and explore a little bit. I wanted to find out what was happening abroad." That's when Romano got an offer he simply could not refuse.

"Robert Cohen, whom I knew from Batsheva, called me from the London Contemporary Dance Theatre and invited me to join his company as rehearsal director. Although I actually planned to travel to the US, in two weeks I was in London. I went for a year and remained for 20."

Romano returned here for a few years during his lengthy London stint.

"In 1980, Batsheva was looking for an artistic director and I got the job. But I made it a condition that everyone in the management and the board would back me up."

Romano had a very clear idea how he wanted to shape Batsheva. "I changed the company. I began a series of new workshops for young choreographers and the company danced these new works."

"I also wanted to create an interrelationship between dance and other media like music, painting and lighting," he says.

Soon enough, Romano realized that the board was not that happy with his work.

"They thought I was taking the company backwards and not forwards, and I was angry that they did not support me, so I decided to leave Batsheva and return to London."

Now there's the challenge of working with Bat-Dor.

"You don't have to compare them to any other companies in Israel or abroad," Romano says.

"Just judge them on their own merit and you find that they are very good."

Kurt Cobain rhymes with pain

NEW RELEASES

TIRZAH AGASSI

Kurt Cobain may be dead, but he's still making money.

Nirvana's latest release—there's another one slated to come—*Unplugged in New York* (Hed Arzi), really highlights the limitations of this symbol of the Nineties' generation and its alienation.

The recording, made only four months before Cobain blew his head off, starts off well. Its first song is intimate and intense, as Cobain carves out this tale of his double-bound ambivalence, of wanting/yet not wanting to relate to the object of his desire.

He is urgent, authentic and intelligent, and his self-absorption is not yet off-putting.

The second song, "Come As You Are," is also full of awareness of the games people play in their longing for others. Its refrain, "I don't have a gun," is quite poignant in retrospect.

He and the group have an honesty and a focus that pull the listener in. For a while, the pared-down acoustic sound serves to highlight these strengths, and covers of songs like David Bowie's "The Man Who Sold the World" offer a little variety. But by cut No. 5, "Pennyroyal Tea," this reviewer had enough.

As Cobain lists his medical problems, from curvature of the spine to anorexia to constipation, I can't help wishing he'd get off his self-indulgent ass and think about someone other than himself.

Sure there was bravery in his self-exposure, and a certain discipline to his obsessiveness. And sharing his narcissism was a way of giving. But after a while, this "no-frills" concert just accentuates the inability to truly give.

There is simply very little music being made here. Minimalism has a point, but soon, the same old drone with very little embellishment merely becomes a clear indicator of opportunity missed. When there is so much music out there just waiting to be plucked from the sky, surely it's foolish to listen only to the sound of the blood sloshing around inside one's own brain.

THE WILD COLONIALS' debut *Fruit of Life* (Hed Arzi) is diametrically opposed to the Cobain ingrown-toenail syndrome. It is positively overflowing with music.

This five-member British group plays everything from the violin to the tin whistle, with the harmonium and the Aboriginal didgeridoo thrown in for good measure. They also bring in a cellist and a slew of drummer/percussionists (including an Indian tabla player) to make sure we never get bored.

Above all, they offer us Scottish singer/songwriter Angela McCluskey. She is phenomenal, with a warm voice that maintains a remarkable purity under its Marianne Faithfull bruising. She has many lyrics that make you think twice, like "I knew life had to change/So I held your hand more



'Unplugged in New York' reveals Cobain's intelligence, intensity, authenticity and, woven through it all, his self-absorption.

tightly," or her sympathetic description of Sinead O'Connor as "a child with a mission to fight every lie."

A particular standout is her cover of Billie Holiday's "Don't Explain" in which she shamelessly models her voice after the original.

The album, which was recorded in Peter Gabriel's Real World studios, is a rich mixture of folk, rock, soul and traditional Irish. All its stories are obviously true. There is a reason that critics are drooling over this classically un-

commercial disk and urging listeners to buy it.

SINGER/SONGWRITER and master guitarist Gary Moore is a rather humble man—he's limited and he knows it. Thus he concentrates on one tiny little plot of land, cultivating it to the nth degree.

It's a method that works. The man basically has one story, the tale of being rejected by his only true love. But he goes all the way with it.

The first cut on Gary Moore,

Ballads and Blues 1982-1994 (Heli-con) is "Always Gonna Love You," released in '82. It's not wildly original ("If loving means forever, I'm always gonna love you"), but it's obviously honest.

By 1990 it has grown into the knockout "Still Got the Blues for You." This is the guy who lost the girl, the one who has managed to sublimate his romantic failure into a passion that can reach out and comfort any poor slob who's ever failed at anything.

Though Moore's vocals are nothing to write home about, they

are adequate. It's his guitar, however, that really does the talking. Even if you haven't heard this man's name, you can't have missed the sound of his guitar wafting out of some beachside cafe sound system at twilight.

The instrumental from "Parisienne Walkways" is an over-the-top classic. Sure it's schmaltz, but it's great schmaltz, bittersweet like the best dark chocolate or grainy textured French films about *amour*. The man's got a lot of heart, and he knows how to share it.

The color of evil

THEATER REVIEW

NAOMI DOUDAI

THE COLOR OF PEARL

By Haim Idan. After a novel by Anna-Maria Yokel. Direction, Itzik Weingarten. Design, Frieda Shoham. Music, Elad Lidor. Movement, Arie Bornstein. Lighting, Chani Vardi. The Children and Youth Theater at Suzanne Dellal. Hebrew title, *Tzava Hapina*. Cast: Dani Lerner, Ranan Levi, Ayal Massad, Josh Sadis, Alma Zak, Anat Boneh, Ilan Gardi, Ziv Barel, Elchi Levit.

BOUYED by an impressive list of sponsors and patrons, the ailing Children's Theater makes a new debut with this dynamic, full-blooded show. While the characters are children acting out the drama of two contending classes in a battle-scarred school, the theme has universal application.

It treats the forces of Darkness and Evil that well up in the form of violence, racism, sexual and group coercion, to wage a power struggle that leads straight to social damnation. It is the story of brutal leaders supported by fanatic followers who cow the mute, cowardly majority into believing that compliance is necessary to save one's skin.

Historically, the scenario has a universal relevance. For people here today it sounds a more immediate warning, one that echoes on many fronts. From the domestic to the political, the adolescent-educational to the racial-religious, the situation enacted here has a grim and grievous bearing.

It has already happened in our schools, in our pubs, on the street, in our settlements, between us and our neighbors. Dramatized with a lurid and blood-curdling violence that ranges all the way from Jacobean tragedy to Edward Bond, the aftermath of such insensate hatreds is graphically projected and the social lesson unfortunately fixed.

Powerfully directed, acted with exuberant sincerity, this drama of the metamorphosis of innocents into monsters is an obligatory experience for all high-school students and their parents.

A tale of two Fausts—one simply bad; one devilishly good

CONCERT ROUNDUP

CHARLES Gounod's *Faust* was originally staged by the New Israeli Opera in 1990 to almost unanimous acclaim. Now it has been revived at the opera's new premises.

David Alden's staging remains an arresting ritualistic and occasionally perverse affair which has its enthusiastic admirers and its strongly convinced opponents.

What did change was the cast—actually two new casts, one which performed on last Sunday's opening night and a second which appeared last Tuesday.

Sunday's performance marked an almost unprecedented nadir for the company. Michal Shamir as Marguerite was a disaster, voiceless and with absolutely no musical message.

Nor was her counterpart, tenor Neil Wilson as Faust, much better. He was inaudible and the second act was such a bore that one was almost tempted to forgo the third. Baritone Michael Devlin, as Mephistopheles, contributed generously to the debacle. Devlin tried hard, but he actually never assumed a devilish appearance.

Even the extraordinary performance of the chorus and the wonderful display of vocal beauty and gifted acting by mezzo Nadar Halevi, as Siebel, could not lift the performance from its vocal mediocrity and agonizing pace.

On Tuesday, however, a miracle occurred. What we saw was actually a different production, as many clever changes and corrections were seemingly introduced. Alden's production suddenly regained much of its dramatic aspects and tempo. Tenor Arthur Davies sang Faust, baritone Monte Jaffe

was Mephistopheles, and soprano Susan Bullock, who—despite her weakness—was an incomparable improvement on Shamir.

A much improved performance of baritone Motti Kaston as Valentin, Halevi's even more conspicuous radiance, the powerful chorus, and the almost flawless performance of the Israel Symphony under Marc Soustrot, turned the tides.

The third act was particularly strong.

Jaffe's nightmarish appearance, the quality of his singing, and his personification of the satanic turned the act into gripping theater.

Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center, November 6 and 8.

Benjamin Bar-Am

BACK from a most successful worldwide tour with former music director Shlomo Mintz, the Israel Chamber Orchestra seemed in perfect shape, ready to embrace guest conductor/soloist Heinrich Schiff's remarkable enthusiasm.

Schiff started with Lutoslavski's *Funeral Music* for strings, demonstrating almost blinding polish and perfect intonation. Schiff then electrified with a breathtaking performance of Haydn's C major cello concerto.

Finally, he concluded with Schubert's Symphony No. 4 (*The Tragic*), which assumed completely new dimensions, ending the concert with tremendous aplomb.

Tel Aviv Museum, November 9.

Benjamin Bar-Am

THE Haifa Symphony Orchestra was in fine form in a festive gala concert which showcased its virtuosity in showpieces like Bernstein's *Candide Overture*.

The main course of the evening was a presentation of 11 songs by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Soprano Claire Moore featured a strong, dramatic, and clear velvety voice, portraying the various Lloyd Webber heroines with style and panache. Sassi Keshet was her fine partner.

Haifa Auditorium, November 9.

Michael Ajzenstadt

THERE is a feeling of elemental force in the extremely powerful drumming of the Japanese Oba Katono Taiko Ensemble.

It calls to mind some ancient rite, with its inherent excitement and festivity. This is, indeed, drumming of the kind that is performed at the shrines of Shinto, the indigenous religion of Japan.

Spontaneous and even ferocious as this drumming may sometimes sound, there is nothing improvised about it. It is, on the contrary, highly stylized, organized in intricate yet irregular rhythmic patterns that leave nothing to individual

interpretation.

The split-second accuracy of the up-to-11 performers, some of whom beat two drums at a time, is a masterful achievement of coordination and discipline, gripping in its overwhelming impact.

Israel Museum, Jerusalem, November 8.

Ury Eppstein

A VIOLA and piano recital—a somewhat rare event—presented by Heather Porter from the US and Bruce Levy, included Hindemith's Sonata Op. 11/4 (1922) as the program's highlight.

A one-time avant-garde piece, it sounded amazingly Romantic, some 70 years after having been composed, but still immensely imaginative and unconventional. Its rendition featured a delightfully effortless flow, a mellow singing tone, immaculate intonation and some genuine involvement, which captured the work's drama without becoming melodramatic.

Besides Hindemith, the program consisted of trifles of the Popular Classics type, mostly ar-

ranged from other instruments.

Levy was a faithful, reliable, and discreet partner at the piano, revealing in the Hindemith Sonata

that he has also something of his own to say.

Mormon Jerusalem Center, November 6.

Ury Eppstein

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	/	2	NIRVANA	UNPLUGGED IN NEW YORK
#2	/	1	STING	FIELDS OF GOLD
#3	2	12	RITA	THE GRAND LOVE
#4	5	12	SADE	BEST OF COLLECTION
#5	11	10	YEHUDDIT RAVITZ	UNLEADED
#6	/	1	R. PLANT & PAGE	G.H.
#7	16	2	INXS	NATURAL BORN KILLERS
#8	7	3	FILM SOUND TRACK	FRENCH KISS
#9	/	1	VARIOUS ARTISTS	NO NEED TO ARGUE
#10	8	4	VARIOUS ARTISTS	TOP POP VOLUME 5
#11	9	5	VARIOUS ARTISTS	BAD COP
#12	13	5	RAMI FORTIS	NOW '94
#13	RE	1	VARIOUS ARTISTS	HIT BOX VOLUME 6
#14	9	4	VARIOUS ARTISTS	CROSSROAD
#15	4	4	BON JOVI	

Tower Records' top-selling albums for the previous week. RE = re-entry

The Jerusalem Post presents...

THE KNESSET IN ENGLISH

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Tzahi Hanegbi, MK
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Moderator: Yehuda Levy, Publisher, The Jerusalem Post

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, AT 8 P.M.

LAROMME HOTEL, REHOV JABOTINSKY, JERUSALEM

Admission: NIS 10 - a contribution to The Welcome Home Fund

Tickets from: The Jerusalem Post Funds, 10 Harav Kook, Jerusalem
The Jerusalem Post, Romema, or the Laromme Hotel.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1994

Proposed capital gains tax may be illegal

THE proposed capital gains tax might violate the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom's property-protection clause in two ways, Knesset Finance Committee legal adviser Anna Schneider warned yesterday.

In a written opinion, Schneider said one of the problems stemmed from the fact that the date from which profits are calculated is December 31, 1994.

Thus, if someone bought a stock for NIS 2,000 before this date, it was worth only NIS 1,000 on December 31, and he later sold it for NIS 1,200, he would be liable for tax on a "profit" of NIS 200, even though he lost NIS 800 on the deal.

While it is impossible to provide a clear-cut legal answer on whether the tax in such a case would be

EVELYN GORDON

an illegal violation of property rights, Schneider said she thinks it would be, since the infringement is greater than necessary.

She therefore recommended that the base price from which profits are calculated be set at either the purchase price or the price on December 31 – the higher of the two.

The same potential problem, Schneider said, arises from the fact that, starting in 1997, investors will have to choose their taxation option at the beginning of the year. The two options are a 10 percent tax with no offsets of losses or a 20% tax with offsetting.

As a result, two people who made the same profit or loss could wind up paying a different amount

of tax, because one guessed more wisely about his tax option at the beginning of the year.

She therefore recommended allowing investors to choose their taxation option at the end of every year.

Finally, Schneider addressed the question of whether the tax can be applied to training funds (*kranot hishtalmut*).

The current bill does not tax these funds, but several MKs want to change it so that it will.

Schneider said that while it would be fine to tax people who join a fund after the law is in force, existing members cannot be taxed, for the same reason that existing government bonds cannot – the investment is protected against changes in the rules by the Financial Instruments Law.

Chase Manhattan to help open market here for foreign investors

Leumi to encourage local firms to use Chase for foreign investments

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

encountered at the US Securities and Exchange Commission and other US agencies.

The depository receipts, which are traded like domestic stocks, are denominated in dollars. Dividends are paid to the depository bank – which deducts tax, converts them to dollars, and forwards the balance to the security owner.

Menahem Inbar, managing director of Leumi and Co., said foreign investors' interest in the Israeli market continues to grow. He said Leumi and Co. plans to encourage Israeli companies to use its services to enter the US and other foreign markets using the

ADR and GDR route.

Stephen Iovino, senior executive for Chase Global Trust Agency Depository Services Group, said the combination of Chase's technological ability and Leumi's knowledge of the Israeli market will increase ADR's popularity with Israeli companies.

In 1983, Teva became the first Israeli company to issue its shares in the US through ADRs. Since then, several other local companies have taken the ADR route, including Elbit and the Israel Land Development Company.

In the past, the government has examined the ADR route for pri-

vatisation of government-owned companies like Bezek and Israel Chemicals.

So far, not even one Israeli company has established GDR notes for its shares. The notes are popular abroad, but have several senior bankers and brokers yesterday said they have not heard of them.

Chase Manhattan, one of the five largest banks in the US, is investigating the possibility of setting up a representative office here.

Last week senior officials of Chase Manhattan visited Israel, including David Rockefeller, previously chairman of the bank and currently chairman of its international advisory board.

Super-Sol registers slight rise in net profits

COMPANY RESULTS
GALIT LIPKIS BECK

SUPER-SOL completed the third quarter with a slight rise in net profits to NIS 17.4 million from NIS 17.2m. in the same period last year.

Revenues for the supermarket chain increased to NIS 515.6m. from NIS 461m. last year.

In the first nine months, net profits fell 24.8 percent to NIS 29.8m.

● Zion Insurance Company completed the third quarter with a 239% growth in net profits to NIS 1.94 million from NIS 572,000 in the corresponding quarter last year.

Zion reported a 127% increase in net profits for the first nine months to NIS 4.02m. from NIS 1.77m. in the same period last year.

● The Maritime Bank of Israel completed the third quarter with an 88% growth in net profits to NIS 3.25m. from NIS 1.73m. during the same period last year.

In the first nine months, Maritime Bank's profits increased 21% to NIS 12.11m. from NIS 9.98m. in the same period last year.

Net return on equity reached 17.7%.

● Eitan Insurance Company, a member of the Clal Insurance group, completed the third quarter with a 243% rise in net profits to NIS 2.7m. from the corresponding period last year.

The company ended the first nine months with a net loss of some NIS 1m., compared with a NIS 3.3m. net profit in the corresponding period last year.

● Ararat Insurance Company ended the third quarter with a rise in net profit to NIS 5.52m. from NIS 3.78m. in the corresponding quarter last year.

The company reported a net loss of NIS 13.7m. in the first nine months of the year, compared with a net profit of NIS 13.13m. in the same period last year.

Tax on business cars simplified

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE tax distinction between commercial and private cars and motorcycles will be eliminated at the end of the year, and the business use of all vehicles will be subject to uniform tax treatment, the Treasury announced yesterday.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat approved changes which will allow businesses to deduct fixed and variable costs per kilometer over the first 10,000 kilometers driven every year.

As such, a car whose business

use totaled 20,000 km. in a year will be entitled to a tax deduction for half its expenditures.

In addition, the sale of a car that received business tax deduction will be subject to capital gains tax.

Owners who purchased a commercial vehicle before the change becomes effective at the beginning of 1995 will be given a three-year transition period in which their fixed cost will be deductible.

However, variable expenses for the first 10,000 km. will not be deductible from January.

Whoever applies for the deduction will have to install a meter on their vehicle, which will enable the authorities to confirm the kilometers and fuel usage.

The changes will not affect existing Value Added Tax regulations. The Knesset Finance Committee must approve the new tax regulations before they become effective on January 1.

New rules expected to make investments by provident funds more flexible, profitable

JOSE ROSENFELD

changed to allow for more flexibility.

The first grouping, which consisted of 50 percent of the fund's assets in government bonds and up to 5% in government short-term bonds (*makam*) and short-term deposits, can now include corporate bonds rated AA or higher of up to 10% of the fund's assets.

In addition, the ceiling on short-term government bonds has been eliminated, as the government

does not need the funds to purchase its long-term bonds to help finance its debt.

The second group now includes future contracts and options, as well as stocks. The funds are also allowed to purchase up to 2% of their assets in foreign stocks from firms rated BBB or better.

The third group can include up to 40% of the fund's assets in non-tradeable instruments, as long as the total of non-tradeable instruments from all groupings does not exceed 50% of the fund's assets.

IFTRIC extends political risk coverage

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE Israel Foreign Trade Risk Insurance Company (IFTRIC) will extend its political risk coverage to a ceiling of 70 percent of export transaction amounts to high risk countries, the Treasury announced yesterday.

Under such transactions, the partner from the importing country must put down 15% of the amount.

Before Finance Minister Avraham Shohat expanded the coverage yesterday, IFTRIC guaranteed 70% of the remaining 85% of the deal's total, leaving the importer with direct responsibility for nearly 35% of the transaction.

The change enlarges the basis of coverage, leaving the exporter with a responsibility for only 15% of the deal's total.

The Treasury decided on the change after long deliberations to adapt to the fact that the size of export transactions have recently grown significantly.

As a result, they have been left with obligations that are too large for them to cover.

Treasury officials noted that the new coverage leaves exporters with a significant responsibility to ensure that they share in the risk.

They also explained that the larger coverage is a ceiling, and exporters will receive less than the maximum allowed coverage should a country be a significant risk.

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ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

Arab Israelis look for opportunities in Gaza

JON IMMANUEL

ISRAELI Arab businessmen organized their first economic conference in Gaza over the weekend, hoping their special status could give them an edge in profiting from Gaza development.

The Israel-Jordan treaty last month provided such an opportunity.

"Three weeks ago Israeli [Jewish] businessmen thought Gaza was their gateway to the Arab world," said Mohammed Darawshe, director of the Nazareth-based Arab Cultural Center, which organized the gathering. "Now that they have the Jordanian option, they have a better gateway."

Israeli Arab businessmen insist they can fill the vacuum.

But is the opportunity, abandoned by Israel's largest companies, worthwhile?

Fifty Israeli Arabs turned up at Gaza's Shawwa center with 50 Palestinians from the territories and six Arab Americans. They were addressed by both Planning Minister Nabil Shaath and Chairman Yasser Arafat.

However, no one jumped in head first. "What Gaza first needs is a central bank," said Mohammed Asbarga of MN Steel Construction Ltd. from Lod. "Without it no one can borrow money, and I'll have no guarantee of being paid."

"It's okay to build, but you have to coordinate building with the infrastructure," one businessman said. "The sooner the Palestinian Authority develops a plan for an infrastructure, the sooner the buildings will go up. We need a mechanism for dealing with the interim period, rules, procedures."

Funds approved for Labor Party institutions

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset Finance Committee yesterday approved two allocations aimed at funding institutions affiliated with the Labor Party.

The allocations consist of NIS 2.5 million to the Defense Ministry and NIS 2.85m. to the Education Ministry, both for the purposes of "memorialization."

The funds were originally earmarked for three Labor Party institutions – Beit Hapalmach, Beit Yigal Alon and Beit Gili – but the government changed its request after realizing that such direct grants could violate the law against special allocations.

Likud MKs said the transfers were merely special allocations under a different name.

The committee also approved the supplementary budget, which will be brought for its final reading in the plenum today.

Darawshe, a nephew of MK Abdul Wahab Darawshe, said the PA will not subject Israeli Arabs to the same restrictions as other foreigners, including other Israelis.

If that looks like discrimination, Israeli Arabs considered it more akin to affirmative action after feeling discrimination from the Jewish majority.

Darawshe said Gaza became the agreed venue for the conference, partly to discourage Israeli Jews from coming "at this stage. We were not invited to the Casablanca conference," he said.

Whatever backing the Israeli Arab businessmen receive from the PA, or possibly from Israel, will be nothing compared to the backing the US is willing to give its citizens.

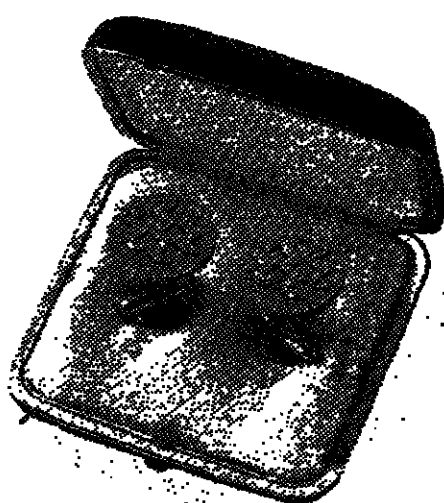
Fuad Suleiman, CEO of Saudi support technologies in Maryland, whose grandfather left Jerusalem for the US in 1912, said "our government has put aside \$175 million to let the US private sector help the Palestinian private sector. It gives us guarantees against political risk."

"We can apply for loans, up to 50% and we can get a 50% grant for feasibility studies," he said. "About 30 projects are at the pre-feasibility stage."

The biggest problem remains the PLO's failure to provide enough accountability to satisfy donors. But Suleiman was sure the Palestinians could manage their own economic affairs.

"The largest bank in the Arab world, the Arab Bank, is Palestinian owned," he said. "The two biggest auditing firms, Saba in Lebanon and Talal Abu Ghazaleh in Jordan, are Palestinian."

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ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (15.11.94)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$500,000)	5.000	5.875	6.000	
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.125	4.875	5.000	
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.125	4.250	4.625	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	2.875	3.000	3.375	
Yen (10 million yen)	0.750	0.875	1.250	
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)				
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (14.11.94)				
Currency (unit)	Buy	Sell	Banknotes	Rep.
U.S. dollar	2.5722	3.0171	2.32	3.5680
German mark	4.7267	1.5539	1.86	2.9880
Pound sterling	4.7267	4.8017	1.86	1.9429
French franc	0.5614	0.5689	0.54	0.58
Japanese yen (100)	3.2513	3.0740	2.86	3.0489
Dutch florin	1.7218	1.7460	1.68	1.77
Swiss franc	2.2048	2.3170	2.28	2.37
Swedish krona	0.4125	0.4188	0.40	0.4140
Norwegian krone	0.4423	0.4488	0.43	0.44
Denmark krone	0.4942	0.5127	0.49	0.51
Finland mark	0.6419	0.6529	0.63	0.64
Canadian dollar	2.1957	2.2886	2.15	2.28
Australian dollar	2.2229	2.2843	2.19	2.29
S. African rand	0.0443	0.0502	0.04	0.05
Belgian franc (10)	0.5395	0.5518	0.52	0.53
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7378	2.7764	2.68	2.73
Italian lire (1000)	1.8788	1.9008	1.84	1.89
Japanese yen	—	—	4.21	4.47
Israeli pound	3.6889	3.7218	0.85	0.90
Mark post	4.8254	4.7006	4.53	4.81
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2228	2.3563	2.26	2.41
* These rates vary according to bank. — Bank of Israel.				
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI				

Key Representative Rates

	Change
US dollar ...NIS 2.9880	-.05%
Sterling ...NIS 4.7637	-0.05%
Mark ...NIS 1.9429	-1.02%

NY STOCK MARKETS

	Change
Dow Jones	+1.31
S&P 500	+0.12
NASDAQ	+0.25

New York market indexes

	Change
Dow Jones	+1.31
S&P 500	+0.12
NASDAQ	+0.25

Other stock market indexes

	Change
FTSE 100	+0.12
Nikkei 225	+0.12
Hong Kong	+0.12

Israeli stocks in NY

	Change
Amir	+0.12
Bank Leumi	+0.12
Bank Hapoalim	+0.12

NYSE / AMEX

	Change
Amir	+0.12
Bank Leumi	+0.12
Bank Hapoalim	+0.12

Less Briefs

	Change
Amir	+0.12
Bank Leumi	+0.12
Bank Hapoalim	+0.12

LIBOR rates

	Change
3 months	+0.12
6 months	+0.12
12 months	+0.12

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

	Change
Amir	+0.12
Bank Leumi	+0.12
Bank Hapoalim	+0.12

US commodities

	Change
Amir	+0.12
Bank Leumi	+0.12
Bank Hapoalim	+0.12

London commodities

	Change
Amir	+0.12
Bank Leumi	+0.12
Bank Hapoalim	+0.12

Spot metals (US)

	Change
Amir	+0.12
Bank Leumi	+0.12
Bank Hapoalim	+0.12

New York metal futures

	Change
Amir	+0.12
Bank Leumi	+0.12
Bank Hapoalim	+0.12

London metal futures

	Change
Amir	+0.12
Bank Leumi	+0.12
Bank Hapoalim	+0.12

TEL AVIV STOCKS

	Change
Amir	+0.12
Bank Leumi	+0.12
Bank Hapoalim	+0.12

No relief in sight as all indexes fall again

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

	Change
Amir	+0.12
Bank Leumi	+0.12
Bank Hapoalim	+0.12

Two-Sided Index 177.31 -1.26%
Maof index 183.19 -0.87%
Karam Index 152.10 -2.05%

There was no relief in sight on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange yesterday, as prices declined sharply. The Two-Sided Index fell 1.3 percent, the Maof 0.9%, and the Karam 2.1%.

Turnover was slightly higher than usual, at NIS 155 million. The mutual funds industry continued to be beset by redemptions, of almost NIS 50m. yesterday. This is less than in previous days, but still considerable.

Mutual funds' total assets have declined NIS 250m. in the last two months, which was bound to be felt on the market.

The mutual funds try their best not to rock the boat by selling selectively, meaning those securities which can be sold without causing a collapse in its price.

But this is not always possible. The money managers and the speculators were acting without a clear direction - both selling and buying.

The provident funds were buying only marginally, generally the blue chips of the Maof market. These were generally those securities which are considered close to those same provident funds. Their activity, however, was not enough to raise the spirits and bring about a renewal of purchases.

Another source of optimism was the activity of foreign investors. These generally were investing in blue chips, particularly on the

FTSE up in quiet trading ahead of expected rate hike

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - British shares ended at the day's best in line with futures after a quiet day ahead of today's Federal Reserve Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting, which is expected to raise US short-term interest rates.

The FTSE 100 finished up 19.4 points at 3,095.3, the day's high.

FRANKFURT - German DAX futures prices inched steadily higher in post-bourse trade, holding the IBIS-indicated DAX index near its highs in minimal volume.

The Dax-30 Index closed up 10.94 at 2,089.29. After post-bourse trading the DAX stood at 2,091.04, up 17.37.

PARIS - French shares finished weaker, but above their session lows, in thin volume that reflected a reluctance by investors to take action ahead of the US Federal Reserve's meeting.

The CAC-40 Index closed down 7.27, or 0.37 percent, at 1,941.08.

ZURICH - Swiss share prices edged lower after a dollar-driven firm opening, as the market lacked follow-through buying ahead of the US meeting.

The Broad SPI closed down 0.87 point at 1,707.73.

TOKYO - Tokyo stocks ended barely changed after across-the-board buying from the "Big Four" brokerages swallowed up morning losses from a flurry of arbitrage-linked selling.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks rose 28.26 points to 3,829.73.

Advancing issues outnumbered declines by about 11 to 9 on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1,259 up, 1,022 down and 631 unchanged.

Big Board volume totaled 260.38 million shares as of 2:00 PM, against 218.43 million in the previous session.

Dow rises on dollar's strength

WALL STREET REPORT

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

	MARK	STERLING	YEN	SFR	FFf
STERLING	2.440/40	-	165.95/98	0.9402/01	3.4388/03
YEN	1.570/17	0.6402/14	-	1.7190/07	6.4002/00
SFR	1.180/03	0.4854/50	75.74/79	-	4.0808/04
FFf	0.2805/09	0.1186/07	12.48/53	0.2441/44	-

FA charges Grobbelaar

LONDON (Reuters) - England's Football Association (FA) said yesterday that goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar, the subject of sensational bribery allegations, would be charged with accepting money to influence the result of soccer matches.

Grobbelaar has been charged with conduct which was improper or liable to bring the game into disrepute and the "acceptance of consideration with the view to influencing the result of a match", FA chief executive Graham Kelly said.

Kelly told a press conference that Grobbelaar, transferred from Liverpool to Southampton earlier this year, would not be suspended while an FA probe continued.

Grobbelaar has denied allegations that he deliberately let in goals during Premier League matches after accepting bribes from a shadowy Asian gambling syndicate and has vowed to sue media organizations which printed the allegations.

Reacting to yesterday's decision, he said, "I'm very pleased that I've not been suspended but I'm very disappointed about the charges that have been laid against me."

Asked by a BBC television interviewer what shape his soccer career would now take, the Zimbabwean international goalkeeper replied, "The same as normal. I will play to the best of my ability now as I have done always."

Grobbelaar said his lawyers were working on his case and did not comment further. In Harare, his lawyer Brian Canavan said he was delighted his client had not been suspended.

Lawrie McMenemy, Southampton's director of

football, said the decision meant Grobbelaar was free to play in Saturday's Premier League match against Arsenal. "We would have been very upset if he had not been available to play for us on Saturday," he said.

Kelly said officials who had studied videotapes and documents backing the allegations had decided that Grobbelaar, the most successful goalkeeper in the English game, had a case to answer.

"We will accordingly be charging Mr. Grobbelaar today with conduct which is improper or which is liable to bring the game into disrepute," Kelly said.

"Mr. Grobbelaar will be given every opportunity to answer these charges. He is innocent until he is proven guilty...I think it would be very extreme if we were to suspend a person before he had a chance to explain himself."

Grobbelaar has 14 days in which to answer the charges. An FA disciplinary commission will be impaneled to hear the accusations.

"We want to bend over backwards to be fair to him and give him every opportunity to answer the charges...so therefore we cannot pre-empt the case, we cannot prejudice him," Kelly said.

Grobbelaar pledged last week to co-operate fully with the FA probe into allegations first made by *The Sun* newspaper.

He was accused in Wednesday's *Sun* of accepting a £40,000 bribe to throw Liverpool's match with Newcastle in November 1993.

The newspaper said it had videotape of the goalkeeper telling his friend and former business partner Chris Vincent about his attempts to throw matches.

49ers win 5th straight as Cowboys fall



SAN FRANCISCO - Steve Young threw touchdown passes and the San Francisco 49ers intercepted three

Troy Aikman passes for a 21-14 victory over the Dallas Cowboys, on Sunday.

The 49ers (8-2) won their fifth straight game, snapped a five-game Dallas (8-2) winning streak and matched the Cowboys for the best record in the NFC.

Young completed 12 of 21 passes for 183 yards and no interceptions. Jerry Rice caught five passes for 93 yards.

Aikman completed 23 of 42 for 333 yards for the defending Super Bowl champions, but his interceptions were costly.

"They played better than I expected, especially defensively," said Cowboys' coach Barry Switzer.

"We proved something," said 49er quarterback Steve Young. "You have no idea what this means to us. It's been a long time coming."

Cardinals 10, Giants 9
A quarterback change from Dave Brown to Kent Graham couldn't help New York (3-7) avoid its seventh straight loss, the Giants' longest losing streak since 1980.

Steve Buerlein found Bryan Reeves on a 9-yard TD pass with 1:39 remaining to rally Arizona (4-6). The Cardinals, with their first win at Giants Stadium since 1983, were down 9-0 at the half. But Greg Davis kicked a 45-yard field goal in the third quarter and the Cardinals held New York to 56 yards in the second half.

Graham was 9 of 26 for 92 yards, with a touchdown and an interception. Buerlein was 17 of 33 for 180 yards.

Brett Favre threw TD passes of 13 yards to Sterling Sharpe and 17 yards to Anthony Morgan as host Green Bay (6-4) won its third straight game. Favre (20 of 28 for 183 yards) led the Packers despite the second-half losses of full-back Edgar Bennett (ruined knee) and Sharpe (hamstring). Sharpe extended his team record streak to 97 games with at least one catch.

The Jets (5-5) scored on Boomer Esiason's 11-yard TD pass to Rob Moore and held a 10-3 halftime lead.

Visiting San Diego (8-2) bounced back from a 13-0 deficit late in the third quarter when Stan Humphries (21 of 36 for 206 yards) threw TD passes of 52 yards to Sean Jefferson, and 5 yards to Duane Young with 6:41 left in the game.

Joe Montana (20 of 46 for 178 yards) was intercepted by Darren Carrington, who took the ball to the Chiefs' 8 to set up the winning points. The Chiefs (6-4) fell two games behind the Chargers in the AFC West.

Bears 17, Dolphins 14
Kevin Butler kicked a 40-yard field goal with 59 seconds left and Pete Stoyanovich of Miami (7-3) missed a 45-yarder with two seconds left as the visiting Bears (6-4) hung on.



DOWN TO EARTH - Miami tight end Keith Jackson is upended by Chicago's Barry Minter in Miami Sunday. (AP)

Chicago got one of the NFL's more bizarre TDs, off a fake-field goal when receiver Curtis Conway's deflected pass ended up in Keith Jennings' hands and produced a 23-yard score in the first period.

Steve Walsh, 5-0 as a starter, was 18 of 27 for 188 yards. Dan Marino was 24 of 38 for 289 yards, one TD and one interception.

Browns 26, Eagles 7
Cleveland's defense shut down Randall Cunningham, Matt Stover kicked four field goals and Mark Rypien added a 3-yard TD pass to Mark Carrier as the Browns (8-2) won for the seventh time in eight games.

The Browns held the Eagles (7-3) to 288 yards as the AFC Central leaders ended Philadelphia's seven-game home winning streak.

Rypien started for Vinny Testaverde for the second straight week. Testaverde is out with a concussion and neck injury.

Cunningham, whose streak of winning starts at Veterans Stadium was stopped at 20, was 22 of 38 for 195 yards. He had an interception and also lost a fumble.

Eagles linebacker Byron Evans broke a leg in the second quarter and is out for the season.

Raiders 20, Rams 17
Jeff Hostetler, removed in the fourth quarter with a sprained big left toe, threw first-half TD passes of 27 yards to Andrew Glover and 10 yards to Rocket Ismail. Jeff Jaeger added fourth-quarter field goals of 44 and 47 yards for the Raiders (5-5).

The Rams (4-6) also lost their quarter

back when Chris Chandler left in the second quarter with a sprained ankle after completing 10 of 11 passes for 171 yards and a 22-yard TD pass to Willie Anderson. Chris Miller was ineffective except for a 4-yard score to Todd Kinchen with 1:27 left.

Patriots 26, Vikings 20 (OT)
Drew Bledsoe threw for 426 yards, including a 14-yard touchdown strike to Kevin Turner at 4:10 of overtime, rallying New England.

Bledsoe, who set league records for passing attempts (45) and completions (70), helped the Patriots overcome a 20-0 second-quarter deficit. The second-year quarterback threw for 426 yards, eclipsing his own single-game record of 421, set against Miami in the season opener.

The winning touchdown pass to Turner capped the opening drive of overtime, a nine-play, 66-yard march. "This one is a vindication," Bledsoe said.

Minnesota's Warren Moon completed 26 of 42 passes for 349 yards and combined with Bledsoe to break NFL records for attempts (112) and completions (71).

Neither quarterback threw an interception.

Lions 14, Bucs 9
Barry Sanders had the best game of his stellar six-year career, averaging 9.1 yards a carry.

Sanders has rushed for 100 yards or more eight times against the Bucs. In the last five, Sanders had burned the Bucs for 122, 130, 187, 166 and 237 yards.

The Lions (5-5) handed Tampa Bay

(2-8) its fifth straight loss. The Bucs have lost by a combined score of 145-57 in those five games.

Saints 35, Falcons 32
Morten Andersen kicked his sixth game-winning field goal against visiting Atlanta (5-5), this one from 39 yards with eight seconds left, to lift New Orleans.

Mario Bates, making his first NFL start, ran for 141 yards and two TDs as he helped New Orleans come back from a 17-point halftime deficit.

Norm Johnson had six field goals for the Falcons, with a 30-yarder giving Atlanta a 22-30 lead with 1:44 left.

Jim Everett was 28 of 36 for 276 yards and two TDs. Jeff George was 29 of 48 for 228 yards and a TD for Atlanta.

Broncos 17, Seahawks 10
Leonard Russell got married Saturday and ran for 109 yards and an 11-yard TD with 5:43 left for Denver (4-6). Russell's 14th straight run capped an 80-6, ninth-play drive led by John Elway, who completed all five of his passes on the march and finished 17 for 32 for 146 yards. He ran 12 yards for a score in the first half.

Bengals 34, Oilers 31
Jeff Blake had his second straight 300-yard passing performance and Doug Peirley ended a game with the winning field goal as Cincinnati outscored Houston.

Blake completed 23-of-33 passes for 354 yards and four touchdowns, three to Carl Pickens, to lead the Bengals to their second straight victory following eight losses.

(Reuters/AP)

SUNDAY'S RESULTS:
Cincinnati 34, Houston 31
San Diego 14, Kansas City 13
Chicago 17, Miami 14
New Orleans 35, Atlanta 32
New England 26, Minnesota 20 (OT)
Arizona 10, NY Giants 9
Cleveland 26, Philadelphia 7
Denver 17, NY Jets 10
LA Raiders 20, LA Rams 17
San Francisco 21, Dallas 14
Detroit 14, Tampa Bay 9
L.A. St. Louis 14, Baltimore 10
OPEN DATES: Indianapolis, Washington

American Football Conference

Eastern Division			
	W	L	PF
Miami	7	3	187
Buffalo	5	7	175
NY Jets	5	5	173
New Eng	5	4	185
Indians	4	6	233

Central Division			
	W	L	PF
Cleveland	8	2	219
Pitts	6	3	193
Chicago	2	8	173
Houston	1	9	147

Western Division			
	W	L	PF
S. Diego	8	2	243
Kan.City	4	4	198
San Fran	5	5	205
Denver	4	6	220
Seattle	3	7	195

National Football Conference			
	W	L	PF
Dallas	8	2	232
Phila	7	3	202
Arizona	4	6	192
NY Giants	3	7	171
Wash.	2	8	223

Central Division			
	W	L	PF
Miami	7	3	187
Chicago	6	4	205
Detroit	5	5	189
San Fran	5	5	184
Tampa Bay	5	5	124

Western Division			
	W	L	PF
San Fran	8	2	225
Atlanta	5	5	200
New Or.	4	6	205
LA Rams	4	6	173

Schumacher scorched by British press

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain's tabloid newspapers were united yesterday in questioning Michael Schumacher's world title victory.

"Smash and grab" was the *Daily Mail's* headline, "Schumched out!" raged the *Daily Express*.

A *Sun* editorial commented: "Damon Hill should be world champion today. He was robbed of the title not by lack of skill or courage, but by Michael Schumacher's dirty driving."

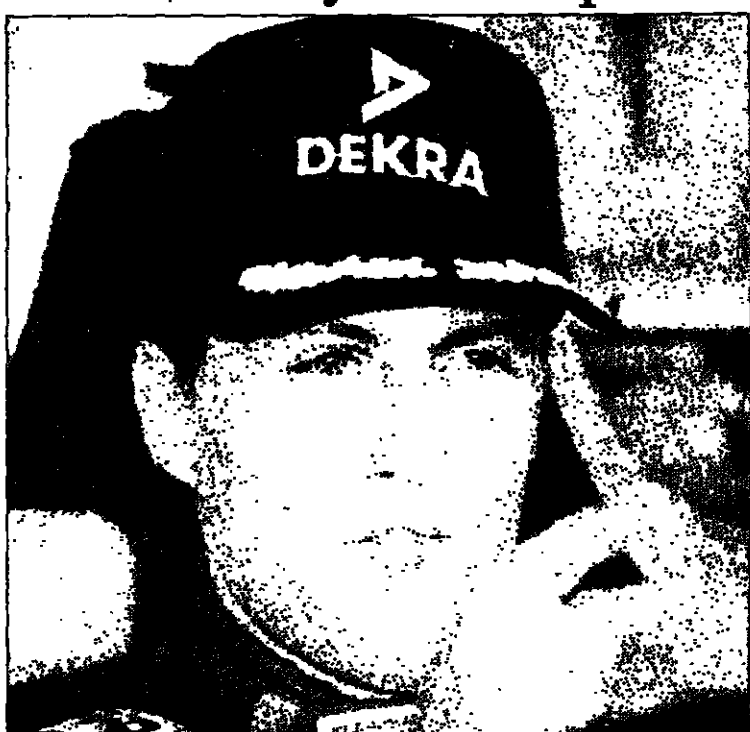
The *Daily Mirror* captioned a picture of Sunday's Schumacher-Hill collision in Adelaide which decided the destination of the Formula One crown with: "This is the moment when Michael Schumacher was branded a cheat."

"Cheat or champion?" the tabloid asked its readers. "Was he guilty of carving up Hill? Or was Hill foolish in trying to get through an almost impossible gap?"

If they back Briton Hill, the *Mirror* promises to campaign for justice.

Schumacher and his Benetton team chief Flavio Briatore said the crash was accidental, caused because his car was undrivable. It had been crippled by the German's heavy impact with the track-side wall moments earlier.

Race reports of the accident are sprinkled with quotes from motor



CHEAT OR CHAMPION? - The British press is strongly questioning Michael Schumacher's world title victory. (AP)

racing experts saying Schumacher's actions were deliberate. "It was blatant. He had him off and if anyone says differently they were not watching properly," the *Sun* quoted former world motor cycling champion Barry Sheene as saying.

Ex-Formula One driver John Watson, also British, said: "It was an expedient accident."

Hill, beaten by one point in the final race of a dramatic and tragic season, said: "People all over the world will be debating for a long time what really happened."

SuperSonics breeze past Clippers, 115-90

SEATTLE (Reuters) - Vincent Askew scored 20 points and Kendall Gill scored six of his 14 points during a 12-2 run in the third quarter that put the game away as the Seattle SuperSonics cruised to a 115-90 win over the Los Angeles Clippers on Sunday.

The Clippers are 0-5 this season and are one of three winless teams left in the league, joining the Miami Heat and the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Terry Dehere led the Clippers with 24 points but was overshadowed by Loy Vaught, who was 11-of-12 from the field on his way to 23 points, nine rebounds and four blocks.

Six Sonics scored in double figures. Detlef Schrempf had 18, Shawn Kemp had 17 with 11 rebounds, and Sarunas Marciulionis scored 15.

Timberwolves.

Terry Dehere led the Clippers with 24 points but was overshadowed by Loy Vaught, who was 11-of-12 from the field on his way to 23 points, nine rebounds and four blocks.

Six Sonics scored in double figures. Detlef Schrempf had 18, Shawn Kemp had 17 with 11 rebounds, and Sarunas Marciulionis scored 15.

England ends 3rd day with 163-run lead over New South Wales

NEWCASTLE, Australia (Reuters) - England's first innings 328, the Derbyshire fast bowler helped scuttle New South Wales for 365, a lead of 37. Malcolm finished with figures of four for 81.

At the close on a humid and overcast day in Newcastle, England had reached 200 for five, with Gattling 33 not out.

The former England captain, 37, who has struggled for form so far on tour, stabilized the innings with an unbeaten sixth wicket partnership with all-rounder Craig White worth 51 runs.

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The former England captain, 37, who has struggled for form so far on tour, stabilized the innings with an unbeaten sixth wicket partnership with all-rounder Craig White worth 51 runs.

Needing a lengthy stay at the crease following his duck in the first innings, Gattling achieved it by batting for 138 minutes up to the close, which came five minutes early due to rain and bad light.

It was hardly a fluent effort but attractive batting was difficult with the bounce of the pitch becoming increasingly low.

And the innings keeps Gattling in contention for a place in the first Test, which starts in Brisbane on November 25.

Earlier, England's batsmen struggled against the New South Wales attack with captain Mark Taylor switching his bowlers intelligently.

After the early loss of Steven Rhodes for 16 and Graeme Hick, who made 12, Michael Atherton (37) and Graham Thorpe (27) added 52 for the third wicket, before England lost three wickets for 47 runs either side of the tea break.

Atherton departed in bizarre circumstances, driving off-spinner Gavin Robertson hard into the boot of Michael Slater at silly point from where the ball rebounded to cover for Taylor to take the catch.

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Mac. Netanya coach fired as club posts mere 9 points

DEREK FATTAL

MACCABI Netanya coach Viko Hadad became the third managerial casualty of the season when his contract was terminated by the club following a board meeting on Sunday night. Former Netanya stalwart Oded Machness has been appointed in Hadad's place.

Machness, one of the most gifted players of his day, regularly thrilled Netanya fans in the 1970s and '80s, and faces a baptism of fire with his side's meeting against league leader Bnei Yehuda this coming weekend.

Hadad joined Netanya in the

summer amid controversy after a successful spell at Beersheba, which saw the southerners capture third spot in the league last season and a place in the UEFA Cup.

Hadad's period at Netanya, has not been particularly inspiring. The club has garnered a mere nine points under his stewardship after eight rounds, and star striker Roman Filipchuk was one of a number of players who became disaffected with Hadad's coaching style.

Last weekend's Toto Cup 3-0 defeat at the hands of Zefrahim Holon sealed Hadad's fate.

Israel readies for Azerbaijan

ISRAEL'S National and Olympic squads flew to Turkey yesterday morning for their respective warmups against Azerbaijan.

On arrival the players were taken straight to an afternoon training session held in heavy wind and rain in Trabzon.

National coach Shlomo Sharf is still considering options for his opening 11. One of the main questions will be whether to include Avi Naimi or Haim Revivo in mid-field, and the wintery conditions are likely to have a strong bearing on his final line-up for Wednesday evening's match.

The Olympic side takes to the field early this afternoon, and will be hoping to provide a winning example to the full squad.

Derek Fattal

Agassi calls for tennis off-season

FRANKFURT (Reuters) - Andre Agassi yesterday backed world No. 1 Pete Sampras's call for tennis to introduce an off-season to give players and fans a rest from a sport which is on television almost all year.

Sampras said last week that top players needed a few months to relax and have a normal life away from the jetset existence on the circuit. World No. 2 Agassi is worried that fans also need time to regain their appetite for the game.

"I think there should be an off-season - for the game more so than the players," Agassi said on the eve of the world championship in Frankfurt.

Shohat revamps taxes for foreign athletes, sports clubs

FOREIGN athletes will be taxed at 25 percent of their income beginning next year, instead of paying regular income taxes, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat decided yesterday.

Shohat also decided to lighten the burden on sports associations, which according to a High Court ruling, have an employer/employee relationship with players and therefore are required to pay employer taxes and collect wage taxes.

The associations will meet their past tax obligations by paying 2% of their monthly revenues every month, on top of their regular tax bill, Shohat decided.

Shohat's move is intended to allow the associations to continue their work and maintain sports activities on the one hand, while enabling tax collection according to the law, on the other.

Jose Rosenfeld

Goldblatt wins bowls tourney

SAM Goldblatt, recently arrived from South Africa and a past president of the Johannesburg Beaconsfield Club, showed more than administrative skill, winning the newly inaugurated Israeli Open singles bowls competition on Saturday at Ramat Gan.

He beat Ivan Kantor, president of the Israel National Bowls Association 9-8, 9-0.

The Final Four contestants (including semifinal losers Gordon

Silberstein and Yair Bekier) qualified to play in the Israel Masters competition, scheduled for Ra'anana on November 25-26.

The remaining 12 contestants are: Len Averbuch, Zvi Bekier, Cecil Bransky, Maurice Hirschowitz, Renee Kusman, Lawrence Mendelsohn, Jeff Rabin, Bessie Rosenberg, Raymond Sher, Colin Silberstein, Merle Swerdlow and Amit Yaron.

Norman Spiro

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Emergency allocations lift strike threat from Clalit

THE Knesset Finance Committee yesterday approved an emergency allocation of NIS 120 million to Kupat Holim Clalit, enabling the financially troubled health fund to pay its 32,000 staffers their October salaries more than a week late. If the money is deposited, as expected, in the banks by tomorrow, the workers will not strike.

Likud members of the committee opposed the allocation. The committee said it would meet in the near future — but a date was not set — to discuss in detail the rest of the proposed aid to Clalit, some NIS 2.6 billion and the recovery program on which it is conditional.

Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon said the recovery program "answers" the basic problems of the health fund; the Histadrut would not sign an agreement that had to be

JUDY SIEGEL

renewed in the short term." He added that the Histadrut can't and needn't be responsible for providing health services. "Responsibility for the health fund and health in general will be transferred to the government when national health insurance takes effect in January."

The Histadrut has agreed to cover NIS 350m. of Clalit's debt and an additional NIS 20m. of the workers' burden. Health fund staffers will loan management NIS 100m. over 10 years, after which it will be returned, linked but without interest. To cover this, the Histadrut will have to sell many of its properties.

"All assets owned by the health fund and controlled by Hevrat Ovdim will be transferred to Clalit," Ramon said.

An appointed management council will be established to replace Clalit's supervisory committee and board of directors. The 51-member body will include 34 public representatives, chosen by an impartial committee, and 17 Histadrut representatives.

This council will choose the 12-member board of directors, four Histadrut representatives and eight people named by an "impartial committee" — most of them members of the health fund — Ramon said. The board chairman, who will also head the council, will be named by the Histadrut, with government approval. The council, whose tenure will be a maximum of four years, will advise the board, receive its reports, approve constitutional changes, receive comptroller reports, and name an ombudsman.

Labor to consider breakup of Histadrut pact with Ramon

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

LABOR'S political bureau yesterday appointed a committee, headed by Police Minister Moshe Shaleh, to study what is happening in the Histadrut and recommend whether to break up the coalition partnership with Haim Ramon's Ram faction.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said that after the committee submits its recommendations, Labor will enter into negotiations with Ram "and if we see that we have no power to influence things in the Histadrut, we will draw the necessary conclusions."

Ram leaders hastened to announce that should Labor quit the coalition, they would form a coalition with the Likud.

The political bureau convened in the Knesset following increasing demands within the party to

leave the Histadrut coalition, due to Ramon's violations of the coalition agreement and his moves to destroy the Histadrut. Should Labor leave the Histadrut coalition, party secretary-general Nissim Zivli pointed out, "a gravely paradoxical situation would emerge, in which Labor is in partnership with Meretz in the government, but its political rival in the Histadrut."

Zivli took a stand against leaving the coalition, but warned that should Labor find itself devoid of any power or influence in the Histadrut, it would have no choice but to quit.

Among those demanding that Labor quit the coalition and fight Ramon from the opposition are the party's Dor Hemshech circle,

consisting of MKs, mayors, and labor council secretaries, and the leaders of its Histadrut faction.

Labor Histadrut faction chairman Haim Haberfeld said that "there is no point in remaining in the coalition in the present situation. Ram, headed by Ramon, is violating every coalition agreement and using Labor's faction as the executor of all his plans, which are against Labor's positions and principles. He dictates his will and imposes it. In these circumstances, coalition partners cannot continue to exist."

Meir Gatt, head of the Histadrut's administration and personnel section, said that "Rabin sent us to Ramon's coalition to ensure that he did not form a coalition with the Likud. But it is

clear today that Ramon is forming a new political power which may run [against Rabin and Labor] in the 1996 Knesset elections. We must not help him and serve as his alibi in his political plans."

Gatt said that the Labor faction is currently a marginal element with no weight in the Histadrut, serving "as a rubber stamp to legitimize acts we do not agree with."

Ramon's deputy, Histadrut trade union section head Amir Peretz, said that if Labor quits the coalition, it will be "pushing us to a coalition with the Likud. We will have no other choice."

He said that Labor's representatives supported every decision of the Histadrut Executive, so should not complain afterward of moves they do not agree with.



Tsomet leader MK Rafael Eitan talks to reporters in front of Orient House yesterday, during a tour of Palestinian institutions in eastern Jerusalem. (Eden Hender)

Tsomet MKs glare at Orient House

MEMBERS of the Tsomet Knesset faction toured eastern Jerusalem yesterday morning, approaching Orient House but refusing to enter or even stand in front of the main gate.

"This is sad," said Tsomet head MK Rafael Eitan, as he looked at the PLO headquarters. "Here we see the Palestinian state in the middle of Jerusalem."

He claimed that the Labor Party is refusing to close

Orient House or restrict political activities there because of Meretz's influence.

"As long as Meretz doesn't let the government move Orient House from here or close it, they [the Palestinians] will continue to expand it," he said. The faction also visited other Palestinian institutions in eastern Jerusalem.

(Itin)

Knesset committee to discuss National Health Law amendment

EVELYN GORDON

Bagrut applicants up 14.5%

Applications for matriculation exams are up 14.5 percent on last year's figure, the Ministry of Education reported yesterday. Minister Amnon Rubinstein said this is the start of a three-year process which will end with 50% of pupils obtaining bagrut certificates. *lam*

AN amendment to allow the National Health Law to go into force on January 1 as planned will be discussed in the Knesset's Labor and Social Affairs Committee today. It is expected to pass easily. Originally, implementation of the National Health Law had been made conditional on the passage of a union tax law which would ensure funding for the Histadrut. Once the Health Law goes into effect, the Histadrut will lose a sizable chunk of income: the 28% of Kupat Holim dues which it diverted for organizational purposes.

However, it has since become clear that passing the union tax will be a complicated procedure. Among other problems, there are questions about how to reconcile the bill with international treaties which prohibit any government involvement in labor union.

Therefore, the government proposed an amendment to remove the linkage between the health law and the union tax law.

Histadrut Treasurer Haim Oron (Meretz) said the Histadrut would support the amendment. It is imperative that the National Health Law take effect as soon as possible, he said.

ble, he said, and the Histadrut is meanwhile concentrating on raising money by including a union tax in collective work agreements. MK Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) said the Likud would also support the amendment, since it had opposed the linkage in the first place.

However, she said she will consider proposing that the January 1 implementation date be delayed, because the law requires the promulgation of numerous regulations which are unlikely to be ready in time. It would be better to delay the law for a few months and have everything in place for it to run smoothly, she said.

The only reason the government — which had initially insisted on the linkage with the union tax law — is suddenly so eager to put the health law in force quickly, she charged, is that Labor no longer controls the Histadrut, so it doesn't care about Histadrut funding. Meanwhile, the health law is expected to increase Kupat Holim's income, thereby reducing the amount the government will have to pay to keep the fund afloat, she said.

Shahal denies leaking details on Sheetrit to Israel Radio

EVELYN GORDON

MEMBERS of the Knesset State Control Committee got into a fight with Police Minister Moshe Shahal yesterday, over accusations that Shahal had leaked information about the police investigation of former Jewish Agency treasurer MK Meir Sheetrit (Likud) to Israel Radio.

The committee was discussing a request by Dan Tichon (Likud) to have the state comptroller investigate the issue of police leaks to the press. Tichon cited the case of a radio news report that the investigation of Sheetrit was about to end, and that the police would recommend prosecuting him. The police later denied the report.

Committee chairman David Magen (Likud) accused Shahal of being the source of the leak — a charge to which Shahal responded furiously.

"Other than notification that an investigation against a public fig-

ure has been opened, I receive no information [about such investigations]," he said. "Show me one officer who claims I interfered in his work and I'll hand in my letter of resignation."

Cmdr. Yossi Levy, head of the police investigations division, blamed Israel Radio, saying the reporter who broadcast the item had been told only the day before that the investigation was still ongoing.

But IBA director-general Motti Kirshenbaum insisted that the information had been checked against other sources.

"It was clear beyond the shadow of a doubt that the information really had been given to our reporter," he said.

Magen said he would consult with State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat as to how the committee can work to prevent such leaks, which seriously damage the reputations of public figures.

Yona Baumel: Gov't is giving up on returning MIAs

LIAT COLLINS

YONA Baumel, the father of Zachary Baumel, missing in action since the battle for Sultan Yakub in Lebanon in 1982, has accused the government of doing nothing to bring his son and the other MIAs home.

"It is as if the government has raised its hands and doesn't want to do anything that might compromise its negotiations on the peace process," he said.

Baumel was speaking following the memorial service Sunday to mark 30 days since the deaths of kidnapped soldier Nahshon Wachman and Nir Poraz, the officer who led the rescue attempt. The service was held at the Horev Yeshiva High School in Jerusalem, where Wachman studied until going into the army last year.

Later, thousands gathered for a prayer rally with the chief rabbis at the Western Wall to commemorate the dead and pray for the return of the six missing soldiers: Baumel, Rahamim Alsheikh, Yo-

sef Fink, Ron Arad, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz.

"Arafat claims our sons are dead and buried in an area out of his control, although some of his men know where. We believe they are still alive, but if he says he knows where the bodies are, he should bring them back to Israel so they can be examined and either shown to be our boys or not," Baumel said.

"The government has grown tired but the families [of the MIAs] have not," he said. Horev principal Rabbi Mordechai Elon explained the decision to hold the memorial service for Wachman and Poraz together with the International Coalition for Missing Israeli Soldiers.

"For four-and-a-half days there was no one here who didn't think about what Nahshon was going through at the hands of those beasts," he said. "For the families of the missing in action, it has been ... for [up to] 12 years."

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